

The Handshake



The Voice of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

What's Happening?

Good conventions are the result of good planning. On the 30th of January, 2005, a committee in the Bay of Quinte Conference, under the leadership of president Blake Gieg, held its first meeting on the long journey to the AOTS Biennial Convention in 2007. The latest meeting was held on 25 January, 2006, in Peterborough at George Street United Church to review the contract from Trent University.

Garnet Thompson, Keith Elliott, Blake Gieg, Bill Gilbert, Sam Jackson (as shown) and Rod Green met in Peterborough to discuss the contract from Trent University.



The date has been set for August 17,18,19, with the 16th set aside for the executive meetings. The place is Peterborough, Ontario, a charming city in the middle of a rural landscape. And, Trent University will provide the facilities for the convention.

As soon as prices are finalized with Trent University, the first publicity kit will be put together for distribution. By the Fall of 2006, information should be in the hands of all AOTS clubs and individual members. The numbers of attendees have to be confirmed with the university by the

(Continued on page 14)

Other Upcoming Events

The Central Region Round-Up will be hosted by Manitou & Hamilton Conferences AOTS, at Jackson's Point, on 21, 22, 23 April. (Details on the back page)

The past few years at Jackson's Point have been a success for Central Region. The Salvation Army staff have been very accommodating, the facilities are excellent and the conferences have worked hard, as their turn came up, to provide a weekend of renewal and fellowship.

You have until 31 March to register for the "Early Bird" rates. And, there are great rates for youth and first time registrants.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Central Region Round-Up
- Devotion
- Reports
- President's message
- Editorial
- Dave Sherwood Scholarship

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Handshake

AOTS, "As One That Serves", is a church-related movement of men initiated in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship and deepening the spiritual life of men and developing effective programs of Christian service.

The Handshake © is published by the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs which was established 8 January, 1923, at Kerrisdale Methodist Church, which is now the Ryerson United Church, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Handshake contains news and announcements of the AOTS Men's Clubs, and, other men's ministry groups as submitted. It is provided to AOTS members, twice yearly, by the national AOTS office. The views and comments which are published in the Handshake are not necessarily those of the national AOTS office.

The newsletter was created in Microsoft Publisher.
Text is in New Times Roman; headlines in Rockwell.

Photo submissions: Please do not send original photos.
Send high quality copies (not photocopies) by mail, or, .jpeg format by email.

Text Submissions: Cut and paste into the email message.
Please do not send attachments.
Material sent for publication cannot be returned.

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The AOTS web page can be found at << www.aots.ca >>
Webmaster address << mark@aots.ca >>

The deadline for submissions
to the next edition of
the Handshake
is
15 October, 2006



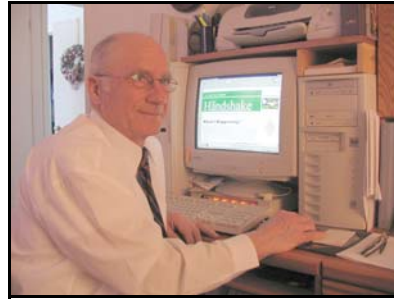
Changes & Corrections

Note the following changes to the National Council address list which was published in the Fall 2005 issue of the Handshake.

Richard Deitriche-	rpd@persona.ca
Charles Klein-	kleincr@shaw.ca
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Editorial



A different style in this issue of the *Handshake* has probably warned you that a different hand is reaching out to shake yours, now.

The *Handshake* has played a very important part in communicating with the AOTS men across our country. The news, articles, reports and announcements inform us of what is happening and the photos put faces to the names.

Ernie Dixon has put a great effort, and many hours I'm sure, into bringing each publication from the blank page to the finished product. Ernie is unable to continue. Our best wishes and prayers to you, Ernie, as you take time for yourself. A job well done; you have served us well.

Getting a volunteer is a struggle that can be overcome eventually. But, getting a volunteer with the same technology, knowledge and ability is something else. You get what you can get. Our own men's club has published a monthly newsletter since its beginning, in 1960, starting with handwritten versions, then the typewriter and Gestetner, Commodore-64, etc. The main thing was the content and getting it out monthly. From our experience, newsletters are an excellent way to communicate not only with the AOTS men, but with the members of the congregation in one's church as well.

Anyone involved with newsletters knows the down side, too. And, that is getting content and getting it by the deadline. The newsletter is only as good as what you, the readers, make it.

Send in your submissions, please. Every effort will be made to include them in the *Handshake*. Some editing of submissions may be necessary to fit the page or column. rjg

Devotion

To Stay Youthful - Stay Useful

Hymn: VU # 436- Abide With Me

Scripture: Psalm 126: 1- 6 &

Psalm 92: 1-15 [Key Vs. 14]

“They shall still bear fruit in old age, they shall be fresh and flourishing.”

Opening Prayer:

“Come to us in this season of our lives, O God, and remind us once again that you are always with us: in desert and flood, in youth and old age, in death and resurrection. Work in and through us to bring renewal and hope for the future of AOTS. Amen.

Keep Going For God’s Sake!

Listening in and taking part in a phone conversation with a neighbouring friend, who was taking a call from another acquaintance that is serving as a missionary in a far off land, I noted, he always ended our conversations with the phrase, “I’m really having fun serving Him here.”

From listening to the tone of his voice during the conversation, I am sure the word “fun” here means *pure pleasure* and not just a sense of amusement. For he conveys how pleasurable it is to be an instrument in God’s hands —

comforting the sick and those in pain, helping with family problems, and doing all kinds of good deeds in the name of the Lord.

I would think the author of Psalm 126 would also agree. For the whole six verses just stand out with a spirit of joy and gladness from start to finish. Verse one opens reminding us of a time when God “brought back the captivity of Zion.” He delivered His people from a very serious situation — what we do not know. It was like a dream come true. The result was that the people were filled with joy, laughter, and hearty singing. Exactly God’s promise! [V5] “Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

I am reminded here of the story of Epaphroditus. (Phil.2: 17-30) , who sacrificially cared for Paul’s needs (Vs.25-30). There you read the examples of caring, love, and true compassion! Now, not all of us could set aside our lives as they did. But, their sacrifice can teach *all of us*, about the value of servanthood.

Lastly, to wind up this message, there is an old saying that goes something like this: “Old age is a matter of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”

At that stage, far too many people put the body in neutral. And, Christian Men, too often, put their service for Christ in the same inactive mode.

Remember our Club’s Aims: to promote Christian Fellowship, deepen Spiritual Life and develop Christian Service. It means that each of us has a responsibility to God, as long as He gives us physical and mental strength, to work heartily for the Lord. We are never called to retire from life, at any age, and just coast down hill to heaven.

Let’s make sure *old age* doesn’t stop us from bearing fruit. Let’s keep going for God. Let’s Stay Youthful and Stay Useful.

Growing old but not retiring,

For the battle still is on;

Going on without relenting

Till the final victory’s won. Anon.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, have us go in the glory of God, to shine in the world. Help us to take the presence of God with us wherever we go. Have us go NOW, and be God’s people in a world that needs us. Amen.

- by Gil Reashore.

In Memoriam

Lloyd Clark entered into rest, 6 March, 2006. Lloyd was a member of Park Street AOTS, Chatham, ON

Ernie Dixon had an idea for posting a remembrance for members who had departed since the previous issue of The Handshake. He stated in his last issue that he didn’t want to give up on the idea. Neither do we. So, to repeat Ernie’s request, “if you want to see it continue, please send in the information”.

Did you know that the National Office of AOTS has a handbook for a Memorial Service? This service has been successfully used in Bay of Quinte Conference.

National Reports

The United Church Observer on Tape

-Submitted by Grant Harrison

This project is for people who are sight-challenged and who enjoy listening to taped recordings of the *Observer* magazine. Since 1983, volunteers have been reading every issue of the *Observer* onto audio cassette tapes for distribution across Canada.

Since 1997, Eastminster United Church in Belleville, Ontario, has been home to volunteers from the AOTS club who produce and distribute the tapes. The volunteer team has expanded to include other members of the Eastminster church family. With the help of donations from the recipients of the tapes, the recording studio has been improved. Our project team has also received financial help from area AOTS clubs and from the National AOTS organization.

Over the years, sophisticated recording and copying equipment has been purchased. The training of volunteers is ongoing. Various problems reported by recipients have been overcome by technicians in our own congregation. The address database of recipients requires continuous updating.

During the past eight years, the volunteer readers have been impressed with the quality of the magazine and with the integrity of the reporters. Many letters tell us that our tapes help them maintain contact with the national church and they value the views of the letters to the editor.



Our project promotion team sends letters to churches across Canada, every year, encouraging them to submit names of those who need our service. Our promotional literature also encourages churches to promote subscriptions within their respective congregations.

This project has proved a blessing to our congregation. We celebrate our involvement with an annual picnic. We hope to make the 10th Anniversary of our project a special event.

Membership and Fellowship

-Submitted by Richard Deitriche

As we eagerly look forward to spring and activities in the sun or at the cottage, let us not forget our Christian commitment to God. As AOTS members, we have a real commitment to our local club and community, and, if National members, a challenge to spread the good word and foster Faith, Hope, Fellowship and Spiritual growth in AOTS across our country.

We are all getting older or just maturing quicker, and so consequently our total membership is down in numbers and we are not attracting younger men to replace those who have completed their walk of life on earth. It is noticeable, when we attend round-ups or biennial conventions, that many of the older faithful men are missing—either through illness or their walk is completed. As Membership & Fellowship chair, I believe that we all must step up and “go forth” like the 12 disciples of old and actively seek out new, younger members and work to make our organization viable and worthwhile to the needs of these younger men. Yes, we must “blow our own horns” and brag about As One That Serves and mean it. To our neighbours, at the coffee shop and at work, we must show that we live what we say. We have a great organization that is often the best kept secret in our communities. So, let us promote and publicize AOTS and bring a friend or friends to our meetings. Have a “Bring a Friend Night” at your club, and, if you have a *sergeant at arms* who collects fines, he can have a feast on any member who fails to bring a friend!!

National Life Membership applications for members who have shown great leadership in AOTS at local, district and national levels are available. I hope all clubs will honour their members who have gone this second mile in AOTS. Your club may have more than one member who could qualify and you can honour them with this special life membership.

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President's Message



Well, we are into another active year of the AOTS movement. I trust that all our members had a great 2005 and that health was good to us all.

First, may I say thanks to Ernie Dixon and his wife for the time and dedication that they put forward in the years that they did the Handshake. We had many great compliments on each and every edition that they put out. We want to wish Ernie well.

With that being said, we want to thank Rod Green, from Carrying Place, Ontario, who belongs to the Consecon-Carrying Place club, for becoming the Handshake Editor. Rod has been doing newsletters for his own club for some time.

We know that we can not have a informative newsletter without the clubs help, so guys lets get that info to Rod on a timely basis. We also want to thank the Elliott Lake Club for continuing on with the printing and distributing of the Handshake.

I have not traveled as much as I thought that I would, but I have attended some club meetings and attended some of the round-ups and stayed in contact with a lot of the executive members by e-mail. I don't mind coming to one of your club meetings or rallies if I can fit it into my schedule. I'm looking foreword to being at the spring round-up at Jackson's Point, in April.

George Bishop and his members of the Men's Ministry Team have been busy with their committee speaking at rallies and round-ups and we wish them well in the outreach to men in the Church.

We have National projects that are being worked on and we must not forget about them. They are the Hospital Project, the Scholarship Award, the Youth To Camp project and the Second Mile. More information is available about these projects by just asking. We encourage each club to try and

support one or more of these projects each year.

I want to at this time thank all the clubs for doing putting so much into the spiritual work or into the fund raising end because all our work goes out in many different forms that we will never realize. We are doing God's work in many different forms so thanks for being part of the AOTS movement.

And guys just when you least expect it, there is again new interest in AOTS by at least 3 churches. So, we are looking forward to more contact with them and others. I'm looking foreword to the AOTS Biennial Convention in August of 2007 in Peterborough, Ontario. Mark your Calendar. Blake Gieg and Craig Watson were co-chairing it, but Blake has had to resign and we're hoping that another volunteer steps in to fill the void. The university has been booked and we are well on our way to a good time.

Thanks members again for giving me this opportunity to be your national leader and thanks to the many executive members that have taken on the challenge of leading. Guys let's keep up the good work. God Bless you all in everything you do.

Calendar

21, 22, 23 April, 2006– Annual Central Region Round-Up, Jackson's Point, Ontario (see back page)

13-15 October, 2006- 52nd Banff Men's Conference, at The Banff Centre– www.banffmen.org
Hosted by Lethbridge, Alberta's, McKillops United Church

4 November, 2006- Bay of Quinte Conference Fally Rally, at Eastminster United Church, Belleville, ON

4 November, 2006- Toronto Conference Fall Rally, at Trinity, Newmarket, Ontario (tentative)

29, 30 Sep & 1 Oct, 2006– National AOTS Annual Meeting, at Harrow United Church, Harrow, Ontario
Hosted by the 4 County AOTS and Harrow United Church AOTS

Regional Reports: Central

Central Region

On the 25th of January, 2006, 3 new members were installed at George Street Peterborough AOTS Men's Club.

The National President, Garnet Thompson, was assisted by Blake Gieg, president of the Bay of Quinte Conference, Keith Elliott and Sam Jackson the president of the Peterborough club. This follows a trend of increasing membership in clubs across the Bay of Quinte Conference.



The photo shows (L to R) Garnet Thompson, Alex Jackson, Hugh McMillan and Fred Kooy.
Photo by R. Green

Toronto Conference Fall Rally -Submitted by Harry Wolfram

Men and women participated in the As One That Serves (AOTS) Fall Rally, on November 5, 2005, at Trinity UC, Newmarket.

The Rally theme, *Becoming Our Identity*, was focused on the initiative of the church to increase awareness through a national advertising campaign. Planned as a television campaign beginning in 2006, the church is targeting 30 to 45 year old non-church goers. The goal is to foster a greater willingness among that group to visit a United Church. Keith Howard, executive director of emerging spirit, the Identity Initiative, led two focus-group style workshops designed to get our input before the campaign begins.

Theme speaker, Carol Hancock, General Council Minister, Regional Relations, enthusiastically kicked off the rally.

Her position as a member of the church's Senior Leadership Team, provides leadership in developing the strategies and tools for connecting and communicating between various parts of the church.

The Chaplain for the day was Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Rev. David Estey and the joyful singing was led by Keith Profit who is the choir director at Christian Baptist Church. While the ladies were in the minority, they participated fully. There will be another rally in 2006.

The Toronto Conference Fall Rally is scheduled for November 4, 2006. The keynote speaker for the event will be Brian Perkins McIntosh, president of Toronto Conference. While the location, Newmarket, has not been confirmed, you can mark your calendar.

The **Consecon / Carrying Place** United Church AOTS Men's Club celebrated 45 years with a successful year. Highlights of the year were evenings when the ladies were involved. The April meeting was Ladies Night; the June meeting was a visit to the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage; the September meeting featured a B-B-Q and Corn Boil and the December meeting with the UCW and spouses of both groups enjoyed "An Evening with Roy Bonisteel". The proceeds from projects support the Youth to Camp project and local charities.



Nope, can't see any men's clubs in the United Church.

Regional Reports: central

The Four Counties AOTS - Submitted by Marvin Bildfell

The Four Counties AOTS (South Western Ontario) donated \$2,500 from National AOTS and \$153 from their own funds to the London Regional Hospital Children's Foundation. This provided the funds to purchase two Sleep Chairs for hospital rooms.

Sleep Chairs are made for hospital use with stain proof and tear resistant fabric that can fold out into a single bed with a regular mattress. They are comfortable for sitting during the day and can accommodate one adult overnight. They are on wheels and can be moved from room to room easily. Their versatility and comfort are extremely appreciated by both hospital staff and parents who are rooming in with their ill or injured child.



Marvin Bildfell, Four Counties Treasurer, and Pauline DenOuden, Co-ordinator, Inpatient Care, Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, with one of the chairs.

Holy Trinity United Church AOTS Men's Club

The 13 member Holy Trinity AOTS Club in Elliot Lake, Ontario, enjoyed a good year of AOTS activity and Fellowship in 2005. During the year they featured an Annual Garage Sale and 3 concerts to financially support their YOUTH to CAMP Projects. In 2005 the Club did not sponsor as many young people to a Christian Camp as in past few years - only 12 this past summer- at a cost of \$1,200.00 for sponsorship and several miles of travel. However we were able to assist in other ways as well with donations of a 20 cu.ft. freezer and a dishwasher to Camp McDougall (Algoma Presbytery of London Conference) and almost 900 hotdog and hamburger buns, as well as, \$1,000.00 to Camp Lorain in Manitou Conference.

The Club has two goals in sponsoring concerts; first the proceeds are used to support our Youth To Camp Project and secondly we provide good concerts at a reasonable admittance cost to people of the community. Our community has a large percentage of seniors living on pensions, so they appreciate these concerts that are geared to a senior income.

The Club meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9.30 am at the Alpha Room of our church and enjoy the fellowship of coffee and muffins/donuts with the meeting. This past year our devotional period had been interesting discussions of living as a Christian man

in a secular world where we are not always a majority.

These discussions have attracted more men to the club so we expect our membership for 2006 to be increased by about 50%.

The Club annually conducts the Father's Day Worship service at Holy Trinity' with membership leading the worship then supplying and serving the social hour coffee and goodies following the service. This year is the 50th Anniversary of Holy Trinity and the AOTS will hold several concerts, the Yard Sale, the special Father's Day service and participate in the Anniversary project to provide a new 3 manual organ to replace the aging instrument that is so much a part of our Sunday worship. The Club looks forward to being active in Service for Christ - without a goal we would not be alive as an arm of the church in the community.

50th Anniversary Invitation

Holy Trinity AOTS invites you to share in the 50 Anniversary of Holy Trinity United in Elliot Lake at the special service and dedication of our new memorial 3 manual organ on Sunday May 21st, 2006. The AOTS Club is assisting in the sale of our present organ. This organ is a HAMMOND RT3 with a Leslie Speaker system. The Leslie system was purchased in 2002 and organ and system are in good working order. If you are interested in purchasing this organ or for further information please contact Ken Little at 42 Lawrence Ave., in Elliot Lake, P5A 3P9, or phone at 705-461-3830. or E Mail jkittle@vianet.ca.

Regional Reports: Western

Rothwell United Church AOTS
Men's Club 2006 Annual Report
-Submitted By Des Jarman

I noted in my report last year that the fellowship and fun experienced in all our projects was a very rewarding experience and looked forward to more of the same in the coming year.

Well, it happened! A new departure this year was a bean supper in January. Some of us went skating, some hiked the trails at Mer Bleu, and some stayed behind and played bridge -- altogether, over 40 people attended, and all they participated in the bean supper. We aim to do it again in 2006.

Another highlight was our Christmas Party with 135 attendees -- there was not a spot in the church to put another table. A fun-filled evening -- and a lot of hard work for members of the Men's Club, and I thank them with all my heart.

I believe the AOTS motto, As One That Serves, is well fulfilled by your Men's Club. We provided food and fun for the congregation eight times in the year besides our support for the various projects as noted in the financial statement. We thank the congregation for its generous support in the collection of underwear and socks and other warm clothing for the downtown Mission.

We have but 23 members and our average attendance at meetings is 15, but what we lack in numbers, we make up for in enthusiasm. And with more members, what more than more enthusiasm!

In The Joy Of Service

Oak Bay United Church AOTS
Men's Club
-Submitted by Bill Magee

Oak Bay AOTS met nine times for general meetings, on the third Monday of each month, except July, August and December. The executive met eleven times on the first Tuesday of the month except August. The general meetings were catered by Clara Knight Associates, except in June.

Devotionals at these meetings were offered by Ken Adsett (2), George Stewardson (2), Roy Jones, Arnold Ranneris, Daryl Anderson and Jan Maandag of the Duncan AOTS.

Program:

- 6 youth on their trip to Naramata
- Geoff Morris-- Angel Flights of Vancouver Island program
- Kristen Jordan-- on Church building fund
- Patrick Mulvey-- Canadian Arthritis Society
- Dr. Oscar Casiro-- Island Medical Program
- members and wives visit to Aviation Museum and Brethour family cemetery
- Tony Dason-- muticulturalism
- members of Cordova Bay UC-- funding school in Tanzania
- Don Stevens- talk on old cars

The Duncan AOTS members attended the May and October meetings, and, Oak Bay attended the Duncan meeting, in November. Guests from James Bay and St Aidan's United Churches also attended the May meeting.

Don O'Coffey co-ordinated the Annual Garage Sale, held on April 26. He also collected the goods. Daryl Anderson managed the advertising and Jack Swanston was the treasurer. The same team organized a fall sale, on October 1. Many others helped before and during the sales. Net proceeds were \$10,500 and \$13,000. These were added to the church building fund.

Ken Adsett arranged a church service on August 21. A men's chorus was organized by Bruce Martin, for the service.

On Rally Sunday, September 11, Daryl Anderson manned the AOTS table. The club collected funds for the meal.

The club made these donations: Gabriel Ramos to study at the Victoria Conservatory of Music; three students to attend courses at Naramata; Love of Africa Society; Aviation Museum; National AOTS Hospital Fund; Second Mile; the Observer on Tape; The Handshake; Oak Bay United Church roof repairs; Gardiner Hall.

The club provided drivers and housekeeping helpers at the 2005 National Convention, in Victoria.

Ken Adsett arranged for the club to man Salvation Army kettles at Thrifty Foods and the Fairfield Shopping Centre, December 6&7.

Regretfully, the club accepted the resignation of the treasurer, Ken Adsett, after serving for 31 years as the treasurer. In recognition of his valuable contribution to the club, Ken was presented with a life membership.

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Regional Reports: Eastern

The **Trinity** United Church AOTS Men's Club, Botwood, Nfld
-Submitted by Clarence Langdon

The Trinity United Church AOTS sadly marks an eventful year. With regret, we acknowledge the passing of two members.

Hubert Freake passed away, on 25 January & Mac Hunt, on 14 May. We extend our deepest sympathy to both families.

We bid a sad farewell to Chaplain Calvin and his wife Goldie who moved to Ontario to be with their children and grandchildren. Rev. John Maich and family have also returned to Ontario.

But, it is with pleasure that we welcome 5 new members; Frances Newhook; Eddy Andrews; Edgar Brent; Eddy Evans; Gary Burton. They bring a wonderful array of talent into our club with their musical abilities.

We welcome, Rev. Linda Burt as our new spiritual leader and offer her our full support.

The roll call for 2006 is 24 and we invite any men in the church to join our club. We meet every 4th Monday for a dinner meeting, fellowship, Christian devotions, singing and special speakers.

Again this year, we supported our usual charities plus the church, Sunday school and decorations for the Y.P. Hall and the front steps. Three breakfast were served at Memorial School and some members helped with the Botwood Day Fishermen's Brewis. Our annual post Easter Morning Communion Breakfast was served to 38 members of the congregation. The annual Loon Bay Camp was

hosted by Lewisporte, this year, and was a great success.

The club conducted the Sunday services and provided the choir when Rev. Linda was at district meetings. President Clarence led the service and Pastor Vators was the guest speaker.

At our December 16th meeting, we held our annual Christmas Sing-a-long and at Ladies Night we were joined by our ladies, Rev. Linda and friends from Pt. Leamington and Pleasantview. During dinner, Ashley Antle and Brittany Jewer entertained us with song and music—a very special moment—thanks to both. After dinner, Rev. Linda led devotions followed by a sing-a-long, led by Pastor Vators and featuring members of our club. A good evening was had by all.

It should be noted that during the sing-a-long, we had an intruder crash our party. Members of the congregation should be on the look out for Granny Mabel Burt who claims to be related to Rev. Linda. But, no one has seen her around Botwood. I assure you “She” was a delight. Rumour has it, she will be showing up at our rock-a-thon, on February 14th, Valentine's Day.

At our December meeting, the club pledged to “improve, repair or replace” the sound system in the sanctuary. In this regard, we are having a Rock-a-Thon, on Valentines Day. We are planning a breakfast and other events during the day and night. All members have pledge sheets and we humbly seek support.

“We may be older, BUT we can still Rock.”

The **Handshake** is a National Newsletter for AOTS members. Often it is difficult to obtain items from across Canada in order to give the newsletter a “National” appeal. Generally, the reports and articles are from the regular sources which gives the representation and support, but it doesn't give variety.

This edition does have representation from the three regions, the National office and the Men's Ministries Network.

Perhaps the readers have some views on what they would like to see in a national newsletter.

- Does a twice yearly publication give enough exposure?
- Are the reports too stale by the time the next edition is mailed?
- Is the timing not suitable for announcing coming events?



At the Central Region Round-Up and the National AOTS Annual executive meeting there will be an opportunity to discuss any of your suggestions and recommendations.

We need your ideas.

Harry Colnett Scholarship

The National Association of United Church

AOTS Men's Clubs

141 Newman Avenue East
Winnipeg, MB
R2C 0T8
February 18, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs I would like to make known a plan to provide two scholarships, each with a value of \$1000.00, to students of Agriculture, Fisheries, and / or Food Sciences, who are interested in serving on the international scene. Known as the Harry Colnett Scholarships, these awards are designed to encourage students to prepare for service in international agriculture, aquaculture and education, particularly in projects related to the production and distribution of food in developing countries.

This scholarship plan developed from a deep concern about world food supplies sparked by information provided by Dean Shebeski of the University of Manitoba and by the interest of the late Harry Colnett, a long-time member of AOTS (an acronym for "As One That Serves") and a leader of men's work in Canada. It is hoped that this plan will assist a number of young people to direct their study toward preparation for international service.

Our plan for 2006 is to have two \$1000.00 scholarships available, the first to be presented at the end of this academic year, with applications to be received at the above address by May 25, 2006, and the second scholarship to be awarded following an application deadline of November 8, 2006.

You are invited to make these scholarships known to students in your faculty or school and if candidates apply, to provide (on request) some assessment of their capabilities and interests. The enclosed forms provide some basic information for the student. If additional information is required, do not hesitate to write to me at the above address, fax me at 204-222-9371, phone me at 204-222-6233 or email me at jimpegla@mts.net

I thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and look forward to receiving applications from your academe.

Yours sincerely,

James S. Lawrence, Chair
Church and Community Services, and
Harry Colnett Scholarship Committee
National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

Harry Colnett Scholarship: Competition 2006

HARRY COLNETT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

International Agriculture and Food Distribution

1. The National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs will provide funds for provision of two scholarships of \$1000.00 each for Canadian or Bermudian students who wish to study agriculture, food sciences or aquaculture, preparatory for services related to food production or distribution in developing countries.
2. The major purpose of the scholarships is to provide financial assistance to worthy students, and thereby encourage good students to increase their interest in world food problems, and to obtain technical competence in some phase of the production and distribution of food.
3. The money will be available to candidates enrolling in a university program in which emphasis is placed on some aspect of food production and processing, such as agriculture, food sciences, fisheries, home economics, etc.
4. To qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must have completed a minimum of one year of study at an accredited institution. Applicants must enrol in a curriculum of an agricultural nature or otherwise related to the area of food production, processing, storage or distribution. The applicant must be a resident citizen of Canada or Bermuda and plan to enrol for study during the forthcoming academic year.
5. Applications and general information are available on request. Applicants should submit the following:
 - a) A one or two page letter of application. It is suggested that this letter should provide the selection committee the applicant's understanding of and dedication to service in the area of world food production.
 - b) Transcript revealing course selection and grades achieved to date.
 - c) Letters from two referees.

Mail to: Harry Colnett Scholarship Program
Attention: James S. Lawrence
141 Newman Avenue East
Winnipeg, MB
Canada R2C 0T8

Application Deadlines: May 25, 2006 and
November 8, 2006

6. The scholarship selection committee has been appointed by The National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs, and will be responsible for the selection and notification of the committee's decision as soon as possible following the aforementioned mailing deadlines.

Policies developed by the Scholarship Committee
James S. Lawrence, Chairman

February 2006

Harry Colnett Scholarship: application

Harry Colnett Scholarship Application Form

This is a scholarship for students studying agriculture, aquaculture OR food science, preparatory for service related to food production and distribution in developing countries. The awards are available to Canadian and Bermudian students.

1 Social Insurance Number _____

2 Student Number _____ University/ College _____

3 Name: Mr./Ms. _____
(First Name) (Last Name)

4 If you are a married woman, please give full maiden name _____

5 Mailing Address _____
(No. and Street) (City/Town) (Province) (Postal Code)
Telephone number _____ Fax? _____ Email? _____

6 Permanent home address: Same as no. 5 _____ or

(No. and Street) (City/Town) (Province) (Postal Code)
Telephone number _____

7 Parents' address: Same as no. 6 _____ or

(No. and Street) (City/Town) (Province) (Postal Code)
Telephone number _____

8 Age: _____ Date of Birth _____ Marital Status: _____
Day/Month/Year Single/Married, /Other (Specify)

9 Citizenship (Check applicable section) Bermudian ___ Canadian ___ Landed Immigrant ___

10 Persons submitting letter of reference: Name and address
a) _____ b) _____

Note: One referee should be familiar with the academic work of the candidate.

11 On the reverse side, or on another sheet of paper, please provide a written statement of your interest and understanding of world food production and distribution. (See #5 on information sheet.)

MAIL TO: Harry Colnett Scholarship Program (Mailing Deadlines: May 25, 2006
Attention: James S. Lawrence or Nov.8, 2006)
141 Newman Avenue East Phone # 204-222-6233
Winnipeg, MB Fax # 204-222-9371
R2C 0T8 Email jimpegla@mts.net

“Present”

Psalm 23: “He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

Some opinions are that there is no present in one’s life. The present is too small a space to matter. Life is made up of the past; what has happened and the future, what will happen.

The present is now. It is where you are and how you manage it determines who you are. Worrying about past problems can take its toll and use up valuable “present” time. Planning for someday comes and all the present pleasures are faded memories or missed opportunities. Children have grown, friends have moved, we have changed and it is no longer possible to carry out the plans and dreams that took so long and too much of the present. By living in the past and the future, life in the present is missed; life is missed. Life is happening while we are busy making other plans.

The New Year is the traditional time to make resolutions. Many are made each year. Some are repeated each year. Most are broken soon after. But, it is a good time to mark on the calendar a reminder to try a change of course.

Practice keeping your attention on the present. Learn to appreciate what is going on around you. Or, as the old saying goes, “Stop and smell the roses.”

Your soul will be restored.

AOTS Booklets

The **Bay of Quinte** Conference revised and printed three booklets which are now in use in the area.

The National Convention Organizational Manual, the AOTS Memorial Service and the Induction Service for New Members were given a new look and the language revised. With the aid of modern computers and printers, the task was simple and the results are easy to read and pleasing to the eye.

The disk holding the copies of these programs has been sent to the National office to be held in the files and to be available to those who may wish a copy.

Original versions of the Induction Service and the Organizational manual are also in the AOTS Handbook and available from the National AOTS office.

The AOTS Memorial Service was initiated by Keith Arner.

Club News

The Handshake offers your club an opportunity to share your successes and to promote events.

Your experiences can offer suggestions to other clubs that are struggling for new ideas, and, notices can often result in better attendance at your events.

Please allow at least a month, after the publication deadline, for a notice of an upcoming event. This gives time for the printing and mailing.

From the *Traveler’s Guide to Heaven*:

No luggage permitted.

AOTS

“As one that serves”



At the 2004 Central Region Round-Up, we were reminded, once again, that AOTS is not well known outside our circle and should be promoted using as often as possible the sub-title of “As one that serves.”

In our own promotion, we are inconsistent, using both AOTS and A.O.T.S.

“The Canadian Style” defines acronyms and initialisms. An acronym is a pronounceable word formed from the first letter or letters of a series of words, such as NATO, CUSO and NORAD. An initialism is formed from the initial letters only of a series of words and may not be pronounceable as a word. Examples are YMCA, OECD and EEC. Do not use periods or spacing between the letters of an acronym or an initialism. AOTS is an initialism.

This Publication will use the style **AOTS**.

AOTS is the official way:
Ken Lane

(Continued from page 1)

dates specified in the contract. So men, start marking in the dates now and be ready for the package. Then, spread the word and make every attempt to get registrations in early. Remember too, that early registration has its benefits such as an early bird rate for registration.

Biennial conventions are also a wonderful opportunity for your spouse join in the AOTS experience. Many count on this time to renew friendships that have been made over the years.

All of the events, accommodation and dining will be in one building which is air-conditioned and has ample parking adjacent.

(Continued from page 4)

Dave Sherwood Trophy

-Submitted by Richard Deitriche

The Dave Sherwood trophy is presented to the club that has shown the greatest increase in paid up membership in the two year term between the AOTS biennial conventions. So, get to work on it fellows and for me, as the National Membership chair, I'll be honored to present the Dave Sherwood trophy to the winning club during the 2007 Biennial Convention, in August, at the Trent University in Peterborough.

There is work to be done! Get out and do it!

(Continued from page 8)

Duncan AOTS Men's Club

-submitted by Gerry McVeigh

The Duncan AOTS club has started off the year with a successful Burns Night dinner and a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

The club has 56 members with about 35 who turn up for the monthly dinner meeting. Each month there is usually some sort of fund raising project, garage sale, fun fair and so on.

Duncan is located on Vancouver Island just over an hour's drive north of Victoria. It is in the Cowichan Valley which has been a logging area with some farming. Recently there have been about 10 vineyards developed in the area.

For those of you back East, our winter is almost over. We have had a few skiffs of snow, the snowdrops are almost over and the daffodils & cherries are in bloom.

Gerry contacted me and asked for some idea of the type of material to submit. I had to admit that this was my first attempt, as well. AOTS has been a great learning experience over the years.

Welcome Gerry and thank you for the article.



Situated on a beautiful Trent River location, the setting is ideal for our next convention.

Editor's note: Space has been reserved, in the next edition of The Handshake, for promotion of the 2007 Biennial Convention.

Looking Back

Has it been 30 years? Ross Adams, membership chairman 1975-77, called a meeting to discuss recognition, regeneration and promotion in AOTS. I sat on this committee, along with Taylor Franklin and Don Baxter. Three letters were written; the first to recognize existing AOTS clubs, the second to encourage clubs to re-establish themselves, and, the third for churches without men's clubs or with men's clubs that were not chartered with AOTS. The appropriate letter would be directed to every United Church in Canada. These letters were delivered to Don Smith, secretary on the Board of Men, who had promises from the United Church office that they would be inserted in the next mailing. The letters were never sent during the two year life of this committee.

Looking back: Where would we be, if we had dipped into our pockets and mailed the letters ourselves? rjg

Men's Ministries

Banff Men's Conference

The 51st Banff Men's Conference, "Cross Currents: Reading the Rapids", was a delightful exploration of contemporary issues which creates support and/or conflict in the lives of men today. The Very Reverend Dr. Bill Phipps, of Calgary, explored his life's cross currents in three theme talks plus a "Bear Pit Session". And, from all reports, these sessions were engaging, exceptional in content and were much appreciated.

The talented Cheryl and Bruce Harding led this year's music. Bruce wrote several of the pieces of music for the occasion. One of the pieces is a new arrangement of the spiritual, "Deep River".

Our organizing team did a fine job. The committee included: Al Munholland (Treasurer), James Bowlby (Registrar), Doug Leatherdale, Dave Wood, Will Sparks, Lee Fraser, Les Ellenor, Pat Hutchins, George Eveneshen, Rod Densmore, John Swierstra, Tom Svienson, Ben Schut, Ken Proctor and Darryl Auten (Co-chairs). The seventeen men took along boxes of Salmon Arm apples which were a huge hit! The men enjoyed the stimulating sessions, workshops & discussion groups, as well as, wonderful meals, glorious scenery and good weather. All in all, it was well received, well orchestrated.

Host group: Salmon Arm, BC, First United Church Men's Club
Contributions from communion service to M&S- \$2,176.⁴⁴
Co-chairs: Ken Proctor
Darryl Auten

Lethbridge, Alberta's,
McKillops United Church
will host the 52nd Banff Men's
Conference.
October 13-15, 2006



At The Banff Centre
"Room for You in the Household
of God"
www.banffmen.org

**Dr Fred Holberton, "Mr Banff",
has attended
Banff Men's Conferences
for 47 years.**

Breaking the Ice 2006

Thirty-one 31 men enjoyed an exceptional weekend of fellowship and spiritual renewal as they met at Camp Norland, near Verner, in Northern Ontario, in the seventh Annual Breaking The Ice Retreat for the men of Manitou Conference. This retreat met on February 10th, 11th & 12th on the theme *Paranoia or Pluralism: A Choice of Futures*, with Rev. Dr. James T. Christie as the theme speaker and discussion facilitator. The Friday evening featured the screening of the movie *Romero*, the story of a Catholic priest in San Salvador.

He was promoted to Archbishop by the ruling class believing he would not rock the establishment boat, but he stood up for the lower class citizens and was murdered for his stand on Christian values. This movie certainly provoked discussion and led to the theme addresses and discussions that suggested that we, as Christians, now live in a global community' where we are not necessarily a majority and must learn to live and respect the dignity' of difference.

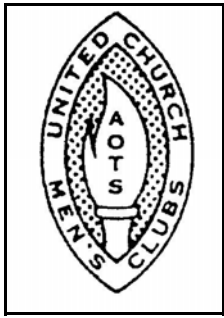
The weekend also features good food and excellent music. How could it be otherwise when a group with a "hot" keyboard, a sax and clarinet, a viola, a guitar and men with enthusiastic voices meet in song?

This retreat is not organized by AOTS, although AOTS members do attend and help plan the weekend. Also, this year George Bishop and Ken Lane made a presentation on The Men's Ministry Network and the Regeneration Committee of AOTS.

Men from Manitou are specifically the focus for this weekend but others from across the Central Region are invited to participate and so three from southern conferences were present to enjoy this weekend and to add to the fellowship.

Already' plans for next year are underway and we hope that others will come north and enjoy the fellowship and help "Break The Ice" in 2007.

Space provided on this page, at no charge, by the AOTS Men's Clubs



**Theme
Speaker:**

Rev Thom Davies

**Chaplin:
Rev. Brian Bigelow**

**Guest Speaker:
Ann Martin**

**Entertainment
Sat. Night
"Chaverim"**

**Ministry in Music:
Jim & Craig Watson
Ken Little**

- Workshops**
- Men's Ministries
 - Spiritual Life
 - Recruitment
 - Being a man in Christian Society

**"AS ONE THAT
SERVES"**

**Annual
Central Region Round-Up
April 21, 22, 23
2006**

***On Earth
as in Heaven***

AOTS: 83 Years of Service

Jackson's Point Salvation Army

Conference Centre

The Central Region AOTS
Round-Up is being hosted by:
Manitou & Hamilton
Conferences AOTS

In Closing

"Be content with your lot,
even if it is not a lot."

"As One That Serves"

