

# THE HANDSHAKE



United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2004

## Maintaining Faith in a Changing World was the theme for the 2004 Central Region Round-Up at Jackson's Point, April 23-25, 2004

### *Organizers Pleased With Attendance Increase*

*By Harry Wolfrain*

118 people from the United Church's six Central Conferences - London, Manitou, Hamilton, Toronto, Bay of Quinte and Montreal/Ottawa attended a weekend Round-Up April 23 - 25, 2004 at the Salvation Army's Jackson Point Conference Centre.

The conference was hosted by Bay of Quinte AOTS and featured theme speaker, Rev. Ed Bentley, Senior Pastor of Eastminster United Church, Belleville, and weekend Chaplain, Rev. Richard Parker, currently serving in the Eldad/Hampton Pastoral Charge, who conducted the Sunday Communion Service. The Saturday Night entertainers were Boyd Warren and Friends, while the ministry of music was provided by the Watson family - Craig, Betty, son Jim and grandson, Andrew. Chuck Wilson led the youth activities.

The conference theme, "Maintaining Faith in a Changing World" was addressed by Rev. Ed on three occasions giving us much to ponder.

The Central Region Council met at the start of the conference and decided to divide \$3,500 among the six conferences in support of church camping activities.

This year, the Bay of Quinte organizers awarded posthumously the ART HARDING TROPHY for meritorious service to Gary Wilson, who died during the past year of ALS. Gary's brother Bill, and nephew, Chuck, received the trophy on behalf of Carol, Gary's wife.

### *Resolutions presented at the Central Region Round-Up (taken from the Record of Proceedings)*

The wording of these resolutions captures the intention of the resolution, but is not word for word.

1. Whereas some members have served lengthy terms in the position of club secretary or club treasurer, this service should be recognized. *The motion was to recommend to the national AOTS office that a lapel pin, similar in style to a past president pin, be designed for both secretary and treasurer.*

2. Whereas there is a need to accurately reflect the membership in AOTS, and to create a database from which lists could be retrieved for use of committees planning conventions, round-ups, nomination committee use and other specific purposes and, to create a mailing list to better budget newsletter mailings and to be able to accurately calculate percentages in competitions, this need should be recognized by the National Office of AOTS.

*For action on these resolutions by the National Office, see report on Executive Conference Call Meeting of May 16, 2004.*

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## Excerpts from the Minutes of Central Canada Region AOTS Council Round-Up 2004, held at Jackson's Point - April 23/04,

by Harry Wolfrain

**Motion:**

Garnet Thompson/Mark Browning: That a donation of \$1,000 be made to Camp Quin Mo Lac, a Bay of Quinte camp in need of support.

Amendment : George Bishop/Craig Watson: That, in addition, a donation of \$500 be made to each of the other 5 conferences in Central Region - London, Manitou, Hamilton, Toronto, and Ottawa/Montreal - to be used for summer camps in their conferences. Both the amendment and amended motion were passed.

**General Information:**

Future Round-Ups:

2005 - April 22 to 24, 2005 at Jackson's Point with London as host.

2006 - April 21 to 23, 2006 at Jackson's Point with Manitou and Hamilton as hosts.

2007 - April 20 to 22, 2007 at Jackson's Point with Toronto as host.

**Changes to roster:**

Paul Cooper is the new London Conference President.

Ernie Dixon (Handshake editor) qualifies as a National AOTS member.

Dwight Reveler, because of poor health, has resigned as President of Ottawa/Montreal.

**Just of Interest:**

Keith reported that the \$2,300 from National's Hospital Fund that was donated to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, located in Ottawa, has been used to purchase Hypothermia Equipment.

Oldest Attendee at Round-up: Bud Maxwell (90) of Kingston Road, Toronto.

Youngest Attendee at Round-up: Andrew Watson (12) guest of St. Paul's, Stirling.

Attendance Award: A close race by the top 4 clubs:  
#1 - St. Paul's, Stirling; #2 - Carrying Place/Consecon and Kingston Road, Toronto (tied); #4 - Trinity, Newmarket.

Longest Distance: Holy Trinity, Elliot Lake.

Art Harding Award: awarded posthumously to Gary Wilson.

Richard Deitriche has moved to Elliot Lake. The Winner - Holy Trinity, Elliot Lake; The Loser - Trinity, Newmarket.



**St. Paul's, Stirling  
Winners of the Attendance Award**

## Central Region Round-Up

### Theme Address: the conclusion and plenary discussion

from the Record of Proceedings produced by Rod Green

A full house was present to hear the conclusion of the theme address. A challenging and controversial topic, "Maintaining Faith In A Changing World," had been given to Rev. Ed Bentley by the planning committee. He did not have the freedom of choice. Rev. Ed took on the challenge with great enthusiasm and presented it with unqualified proficiency and a selection of complementary humorous anecdotes that kept the attention of even those most apt to slip away under other circumstances. Truth is stranger than fiction, Rev. Ed demonstrated as he regaled us with some of these stories.

Monetary rewards are really insufficient for the quality of the address and the amount of time spent to prepare it. Rev. Ed also spent time in a separate session with the youth group. Those who thought that the youth were only there for recreation would have been pleasantly surprised at the reports that came back from the discussions that the youth had about the theme address. The address concluded with a plenary discussion which did raise some interesting topics and demonstrated Rev. Ed's skill at responding to any questions.

The seven keys to ponder were: Christocentricity (a world evolving around Jesus Christ), Enthusiasm, Relevance (willing to change and adapt), Obedience, Transformation, Accomplishment (one has to accomplish something good in relation to its effect on others, and Reliance.

Amen, Rev. Ed.

*Note: Gib Waite installed his own sound equipment and recorded the address. Transcripts are to be made available through Garnet Thompson.*



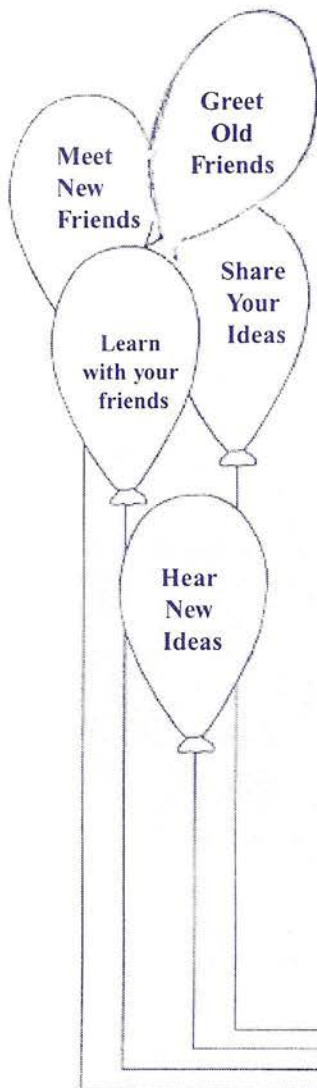
Back, L to R: Blake Gieg, Craig Watson,  
Jim Watson  
Flag Bearers: L to R: Brent Kleinsteuber  
(from Wellington), Jack Cleave,  
Grant Demster (from Marmora)



L to R: Barry Ross, Roy Dunk, Don Kidd, Bob Wilkie, Bob Gardner, Gord Scott, Ray Cockburn, Neil McCahon, Fred Chambers, Bud Maxwell



L to R: Central VP: Keith Elliott, Chuck Wilson, Bill Wilson, and Sam Jackson, President.



## 50th Banff Men's Conference

October 15 - 17, 2004

at the beautiful Banff Centre.

**Theme: HIGH FLYERS "Leadership for a New Time."  
Guest Speaker Gordon Oaks, Minister - Educator**

Music: Verla Carter, Nancy Chegus, Donna Grason

*Numerous workshops,  
discussion groups,  
excellent accommodation and food.*

**Mail your registration immediately, to:  
Bill Rutledge 11602 - 77 Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6G 0M3  
Telephone: (780) 436-1440 Email: brutledg@telusplanet.net**

Room Bookings: Banff Centre 1-800-884=7574.  
Email: conferences@banffcentre.ca Web: www.banffcentre.ca

### Poems

by Richard Paul Dietriche

*These are a couple of my poems in my booklet titled, "PONDERINGS." If you like to purchase one, call me. The cost is only five dollars and all money goes to the youth camp fund. Over 185 poems I composed. Call 705-848-3997.*

#### Autumn Colours

Autumn colours are amazing to see  
The leaves fall off and die, I see  
To feel the sign of autumn too  
The sign of winter coming too  
To see the autumn colours bright  
And yes the beauty of that sight  
The autumn colours soon to go  
And a blanket of winter snow to blow  
Autumn colours a real delight  
A sign from God to show us right.

#### Hello God

Hello God. Are you there?  
I know that you are everywhere  
To hear our cries and prayers.

I wonder if you ever get old  
Or tired of our prayers;  
Of hidden secrets that we tell,

I wonder if you care.  
I wonder what your place looks like  
The mansions in the sky.

Will I ever see that place  
Oh yes, when I die.  
Hello God. Are you there?

I hope you have room for me  
I know I haven't been too good  
But I'll try and make things up.  
Hello God.

## Who Is Doing What! – Club News

### St. Paul's United AOTS

by W. Grant McDonald

#### Helping the Physically Challenged

“As One That Serves”

Men's Club of St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, Ontario, helped put into the sanctuary the necessary equipment and the manpower to record each Sunday Service on audiotapes to be delivered to our church members who are unable to attend church.

We presently have three members to whom we deliver tapes on Monday or Tuesday each week. There are other church members who, for various reasons, don't want to avail themselves of our service. Some of their reasons include: “Don't have a machine,” “I fall asleep too easily.” “I'm physically unable to push the buttons on the machine and I'm too proud to ask for help.” As Chairman and the only delivery person, I hear every excuse or reason - so be it! We are only here to serve.

Our audiotape technicians number five men who take turns and do a fine job. Those who receive our service are most appreciative. As long as there is a need, we will continue this service.

#### Intergenerational activity

Some months ago, the 2nd Scout Troop of Tillsonburg appealed to us for some direction in how to raise funds. After some discussion, we offered them a partnership in our “Beef Supper” fund raiser.

The St. John's people sup-

ply twenty pies and we do the same. They supply plenty of labour and we supply our Banquet Hall and Kitchen. After expenses, we split 50/50 which came to \$1,038. each.

We fed 230 people and the compliments were flying. We solved our labour problems and they found a way to raise money. We're on again for next year. Our money supports two children we adopted through the Foster Parent



Audiotape presentation on April 19, 2004  
L to R: Mrs. Alice Coldham, Dr. Don Hevenor, President AOTS, and W. Grant McDonald, Past President. Photo by Mrs. Marion Hevenor, church archivist

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### Bellefair AOTS

by Harry Wolfrain

#### Newsletter and Minutes of Seminar held March 6, 2004

24 men and women attended the seminar hosted by the AOTS with Toronto Conference United Church president, Heather Burton, as the presenter. The topic was “Same Sex Marriage.”

Heather led us through discussions on society's attitude to-

wards gays and lesbians throughout the ages and reported on General Council's handling of the marriage matter. During the morning, the large group was divided into six workshops, thus giving all a better chance to participate. Bellefair's Jim McKibbon who is President of Toronto Conference AOTS, introduced Heather and later thanked her for a very interesting time.

**Men's Ministry Network:** In the past, many men have felt there was little emphasis on MEN in the United Church's planning. Recently, thanks to the efforts of several AOTS leaders, a Men's Ministry Network has been set up in the United Church and the “As One That Serves” will be a leading player. Jim McKibbon is a member of the AOTS Regenerating Committee which participated in a retreat at Five Oaks recently and reported, “The Retreat was a great success and we are seeing some significant developments as a result.”

**TV Interviews:** Jim McKibbon was interviewed for the United Church's Spirit Connection, the program aired on Vision TV on March 2. Way to go, Jim!

Harold and Jim Lorenz of Newmarket AOTS were interviewed by Horizon Cablevision's John Sullivan. This one is scheduled for Rogers Channel 10 on April 11 at 12:30 and June 6 at 12 noon.

**Next Seminar:** Saturday, April 17/04. Topic: That we may know each other - a Christian and Muslim dialogue.

# Trinity United Church AOTS Botwood, Newfoundland

## Annual Report

by Jim Lorenzen

Our club has 26 members with 12 on the executive. The latter is very active as most of our members are 75+. We hold executive meetings every 2nd Monday and dinner meetings on the 4th Monday of each month, except July and August when it is at the call of the chair.

At our dinner meetings we usually have an interesting speaker and always a spirited devotional with a sing-a-long.

In January, we elected a new slate of officers with Clarence Langdon replacing Jim Edison as President.

We have done several projects for our church, such as painting the kitchen, and spring clean-up of the grounds. We also provided the Board of Management \$1,500 to paint the Christian Education Center. In addition, we honoured our annual contribution of \$1,000 to our church and we presented a cheque for \$2,600 to the Board of Management on Thanksgiving Sunday.

We raised our funds with the usual projects - Lumberjack Take-out, selling Mooseburgers at Botwood Day (our usual Fisherman's Brews was unavailable due to the high cost of fish). A Flea Market and Bake Sale on October 18th raised nearly \$1,400.

As we do every year, we served approximately 40 of our congregation at the Easter Sunday Communion Breakfast. In 2003, we served breakfast three times at Memorial Academy.

We helped welcome a new Minister - The Rev. John. Some of the members travelled to St. Anthony to help with the transfer of his furniture. The club also purchased a computer desk for the office.

The Club donated to our regular charities and we sponsored two boys to the Loon Bay Summer Camp.

We brought the Travelling Gavel to the Bishop's Falls Club and enjoyed a special night of fellowship and entertainment.

We visited the Salvation Army Men's Service Club for a night of fellowship and devotions and the Anglican Men's Service Club to help celebrate the visit of their Bishop.

In May, we hosted National President Elect (now National President) Ernie Paddock. In a very impressive ceremony, he inducted four new members into our club.

For the coming year: we hosted a district meeting of United Church Men's Service Clubs in April and we will be looking at the upgrading of the sound system in the sanctuary. We will also be hosting the annual fellowship rally at Loon Bay.

As you see, we have not been idle. A lot of hard work has been done under the leadership of president Clarence and Project Chairman, Les Curlew, and the help of the whole club. With God's help we will carry on.

## CONNECTING MEN

### 10th Annual Fall Rally

The regeneration of men's work in the United Church of Canada is a matter of connecting men to the issues of church work in society. That work has never been more relevant.

The congregation of Kingsview United Church in Oshawa has been able to connect with their community by incorporating new culture and technology into the art of their worship expression. They regularly attract 400 people to Sunday services.



### Toronto Conference

This year's rally features members of Kingsview United Church. **Rev. Craig Donnelly** will provide the Keynote presentation and overview entitled *Connecting with the Community*.

**Location: Trinity United Church, Main Street, Newmarket.**

**Date: Sat. Nov. 6, 2004; 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$25 (payment on day of rally)**

Registration: Contact Ray Cockburn: 416-431-6735

74 Grace Street, Scarborough, ON M1J 3K9

[rcockburn@wabashalloys.com](mailto:rcockburn@wabashalloys.com)

# Club Meeting Devotional

presented by Ian MacPherson, Secretary, Duncan AOTS

**Reading:** Ephesians 2: 4-10

**Theme:** Why are we here?

We are on a journey of discovery, a journey which leads both outwards and inwards. WHAT we believe affects HOW we live, and our experiences affect WHAT we believe. These are not TWO journeys but ONE, because they each depend on one another.

We journey Outwards in service to others and in trying to build a better, loving society. At the same time we journey Inwards, providing personal satisfaction from our actions, and joy through helping others.

The outward journey provides the means for the development of loving relationships in every sphere of life, with all races, creeds and faiths. It is a practical expression of the principles we try to follow, as demonstrated in the life of Jesus.

The journey inwards is a discovery of meaning, a test of our belief and an exploration of our spirituality within the Christian way of life.

Service to others is not dependent on there being Christians, an example of which is adequately revealed in the parable of the Good Samaritan. This is well demonstrated in today's society, when we have so many volunteers helping others experiencing difficult times - for example, during the forest fires of last summer when volunteers housed and cared for the evacuees, the ever present need to support the various Food Banks and many other services so necessary for present-day living.

As a faith community, and particularly as AOTS Members, we are involved in many of these various activities, we are well aware of the needs of a growing number of people in our society. To be effective, we should listen now and always for the voice of God, to know His will as revealed in Christ Jesus, and do this while ignoring World opinions.

To make this an effective action, we can follow FOUR principles:

1. TO THINK FAIRLY - by listening to the views of others, so that we can better understand their convictions, thus avoiding conflict by our sympathetic understanding.
2. TO LOVE WIDELY - by welcoming all in friendship, putting aside prejudices of thought, word or deed.
3. TO WITNESS HUMBLY - by acknowledging the spiritual nature of mankind and by practising the Christian way of life.
4. TO BUILD BRAVELY - by using our God given gifts in service and, by our example, challenge our neighbours to seek the way of Christ.

In summary, I would like to quote from Matthew 5: 14-16

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they might see your good works and glorify our Father who is in Heaven.

**Prayer:** O God, who has set men in this world to see their duty as Thy will, teach us to live together in Love and Joy and Peace, to check all bitterness, to disown discouragement, to practice thanksgiving, and leap with joy to any task for others. Strengthen the good thing thus begun, that with gallant and high-hearted happiness we may work for Thy kingdom in the wills of men. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Trinity United AOTS

Newmarket, ON

by Richard Dietriche

April AOTS meeting was a dinner meeting with the meal prepared by Harold Lorenz with various members helping in the kitchen earlier in the day.

George Bishop led in devotions plus on the piano singing grace. The new President, Bob LaSalle opened and thanked Joe Margin for the many years as president of this club. The one highlight was saying goodbye to Richard Paul Dietriche for his many years of service and helping in many projects plus a few he introduced. He was given a gift as well as a card signed by all. He is moving to Elliot Lake in May with the help of various members with loading his furniture and wishing all the best. Member Jonathan Wardlaw drove Richard there on May 5.

May was to be the annual Ed Cartwright memorial golf tournament but the heavy rainfall cancelled that event, but they met at the crows nest for dinner and a social evening.

June was the Fathers Day Service. A skit was performed as well as plenty of old songs sung by the congregation. Coffee, tea and cake were served after the service.

As well, in June, the AOTS club prepared a hot meal for the ladies that served the less fortunate over the fall, winter and spring with a hot meal every Tuesday, called LAMP, which stands for "Lunch At My Place." Yes,

they do a good job with the AOTS men setting up tables, serving and cleaning up afterwards.

Prior to Christmas, the men of this club prepare a turkey dinner with four large turkeys, plenty of vegetables, dessert, and of course, smiles. Last year, they served over 135 people with a Christmas sit down dinner at the church and gifts for all; AOTS supplied them for the men; UCW supplied for the women; Sunday School supplied for the children.

June was also the last meeting till the fall with a BBQ at member Tom Thomas and a dip in his swimming pool. Those who attended brought a dish or dessert and their own drinks. A real fellowship and fun night for all.

September 11 was the annual BBQ at Loblaws - sausages, hamburgs, hot dogs and pop. A real good time for all and a fund raiser with many people supporting this event every year.

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The reason an atheist can't find God is the same as why a thief can't find a policeman.

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## From the Minutes of the May 10/04 meeting of Toronto Conference AOTS Council Executive

by Harry Wolfrain

The Club Reports with *Joys* and *Sorrows*. Among the Joys are these items:

**Don Mills Club:** Bob Gardner, president, was pleased to report a meeting of their club once again. The club distributed carnations to all mothers during the Mothers' Day Service on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Trinity Club:** Trinity has set up a planned program and pamphlet so every one knows what the club is doing. They did a survey of all the men in the congregation and will report the results in a future meeting. Some of the men sponsored a lunch for homeless (LAMP program) and the club is aiming at increasing their membership. The club held a goodbye luncheon for Richard Dietriche as he has moved to Elliot Lake.

**Bellefair:** This club now has 43 members. They report a very successful symposium held on April 17 with an attendance of about 70 people.

## The National Directory

### Calling all Club Secretaries - Jim Needs You!

Have You sent in your Membership List yet?

The National Council wants it completed by March, 2005.

Best to get started right away with the 2004 list and send the changes for 2005 in January.

Jim has sent to each club the information he needs and the form that is best suited for the task. Now it is all up to us. Each Club has a responsibility to respond immediately.



## Holy Trinity AOTS

Elliot Lake, ON

by Richard Dietriche

May 15, the Algoma Festival Choir directed by Steven Mallinger sang Shanties/Spirituals and Songs of Spring as a fund raiser for this AOTS Club to help send kids to a summer camp this coming summer. The men sold tickets as well as handed out programs at the two doors. The weather was great and every one enjoyed this music.

On May 29 was the Annual AOTS Yard Sale starting at 9:00 a.m. with lots of donated articles to purchase. Prior to the event, the AOTS men collected and priced the items. It was well attended and the money raised will go to youth to camp locally.

June was the annual AOTS fathers day service with men of the club doing various parts of the service - ushering, greeting, and of course the highlight was the pastry and other goodies the men baked themselves for coffee hour after church.

September 11 AOTS meeting with the topic, "Preparing to host the National Council Meeting." Various members are involved with setting up tables and chairs, serving meals and billeting these guests to our club and church on Oct. 1-3.

**2005  
Biennial  
Conference  
Victoria BC  
August 5 - 7**

## WOW! WHAT A PARTY!

Bloomfield AOTS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Dick Piller, P.R. & Membership Chairman

On Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> forty-two members and associates of AOTS Clubs celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bloomfield AOTS Club.

Official guests were Craig Watson, Past National President AOTS, Blake Gieg, President of Quinte Conference, Keith Elliot, President of Central Region and Garnet Thompson, President-Elect of AOTS.

President Ron Fox appointed Bob Williams, Charter President, to keep the enthusiastic members in line and keep their oratorical skills at bay. John Matthie gave a heart warming and thoughtful message on the workings of AOTS. We really listened to John's message and we only hope we can all follow his advice and wisdom.

Craig Watson also gave a short resume on the growth and importance of AOTS in our communities. Craig then led the songs and hymns for the evening with Myrtle Blair brightening up the hall with her talented, enthusiastic piano playing. We all responded and sang with gusto and volume and the spirit of the evening was uplifting. Music enlivens the soul!

Blake Gieg reviewed the most exciting things that happened back in 1963. The most important was the founding of the Bloomfield AOTS. Why was it important? Because of all the community projects and events that were the brain dreams of AOTS. He presented a plaque for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to President Ron Fox.

Keith Elliot made the Presentation of Scrolls to charter members who have survived the ravages of time: Hubert Mann, age 92 and Frank Huff, age 94. They are walking, living legends of our club's service to the community.

Keith further made a presentation of a hand-crafted lectern, gavel and fine box to commemorate the forty years.

Garnet Thompson, our National President who lives in Belleville, advised that the National Conference will take place in Belleville in 2005. This honour will spill over into Prince Edward County with involvement by clubs in the County. He covered many projects and support given by National AOTS: e.g. Youth Camps, Hospitals in remote parts of Canada, Awards to students who are willing to spend time in an under-privileged country.

AOTS is now officially integrated into the structure of the United Church of Canada with 60 clubs active across Canada.

Space and time prevent all the details of their projects, but the main theme is to promote fellowship and camaraderie and foster a good time for a good cause, mixing the social life and the spiritual life of its members.

Alex Stickle concluded the evening with a short report on all our fund raising events and the organizations that benefited from our labour and goodwill.

Past President Ron Binch thanked the UCW Unit II for a truly superb dinner. How would we ever survive without the ladies demonstrating to us what AOTS really means: "AS ONE THAT SERVES."

Rev. Sandra Farrow closed the meeting with the Benediction.

## Preparing for Christmas

Editor's note: *Last Christmas, I was pleased to receive a copy of Ebbie Henry's Christmas Newsletter. Soon, we will be celebrating the Christmas Season again and I think you will see that Ebbie's 2003 Christmas message is as applicable this year as it was in 2003. I am taking the liberty of including a part of that letter in the Handshake.*

“Unfortunately our global situation seems to deteriorate rather than improve. Trust between individuals and nations is needed before any genuine progress becomes a reality. War has compounded many tragic situations that existed before, as outlined in a Christmas Letter received almost 40 years ago. We cannot forget them ... amid the tinsel and sparkle of our festivities.

I have more food than I can eat;  
They faint with hunger in the street.

I have more clothes than I can wear;  
Their heads and hands and feet are bare.

My walls are thick and warm and dry;  
Their walls are rain and wind and sky.

My heart knows love and noble souls;  
Their hearts are hungry, thirsty bowls.

These things let me remember when  
Their cries of need arise again .

- Alice Perrin Hensey.

The Bethlehem of our School and Sunday School  
concerts seems very remote.”

## Editorial

*A great big Thank You to all who contributed to this issue of The Handshake. A special Thank You to those who remembered the September 15 deadline. In fact, most of the material for this issue arrived in June. Made my task a lot easier as it gave me all summer to do the typing.*

*I have been wondering whether we could select better dates for publication. It has crossed my mind that most clubs start up in September and a deadline of September 15 doesn't give much time for them to report anything. If we moved the deadline on a month or even six weeks, clubs could then report their plans for the year. Right now, we can only report on the past - some in the quite distant past. I think it would be nice to have a mixture of reports of the past and some ideas for the future.*

*Just a thought. Let's hear from you.*

*Send to my new e-mail address:  
edixon@ontera.net*

*Ernie*

For many years a mining company out west employed a Chinese cook. One evening, after an unusually good dinner, the superintendent decided to raise his wages. The next payday the cook noted the extra pay in his envelope.

He went to the superintendent. “Why you pay me more?”

“Because,” replied the superintendent, “you have been such a good cook all these years.”

The cook thought it over for a moment, then said, “You been cheating me a long time, eh?”

Ed Parr of Chatham visited the New Coventry Cathedral in England. He was surprised to find these words carved at the base of a sculpture to the right of the main altar:

“I AM AMONG YOU AS ONE THAT  
SERVES.”

# On The National Scene

## **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 one scholarship of \$1,000 for Canadian or Bermudian students who wish to study agriculture, food sciences, fisheries, or food distribution, preparatory for services related to food production in developing countries.
2. The major purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a worthy student 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 the candidate 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 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 with 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.
6. Mail to : Harry Colnett Scholarship Program  
Attention: J.S.Lawrence  
141 Newman Avenue East  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada. R2C 0T8  
Application Deadline: November 15, 2004
7. The scholarship selection committee ( Church & Community Services Committee) is appointed by the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs and will be responsible for the selection and notification of the applicants by December 15, 2004.

**Announcing**  
**New e-mail address for the Handshake Editor: [edixon@ontera.net](mailto:edixon@ontera.net)**

# National AOTS Music Program, 2004

by Jim Lawrence, chair, C & C Services Committee

To establish a fund that will provide a pool of money from which to allocate bursaries to future musicians in the United Churches, the Manitoba District Council sponsored concerts within the City of Winnipeg. In the fall of 1997, District Council asked the Music Director of Grey Street United Church, which has an AOTS Club, to solicit suggestions and opinions from some of his colleagues. As a result, a concert was held in Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church in 1998, with performers consisting mainly of Church choirs plus individual adult and youth soloists or musicians. This concert provided seed money for the first group of five bursary applicants, who were then asked to participate in the fund raising concert for the following year.

Concerts subsequent to the first have displayed the talents of some of the bursary recipients of the previous year's successful applicant pool of youth musicians, as well as a number of church choirs and individual musicians. Bursary applications have not been sought since the 2001 concert year, until the April mailing was made in 2004.

**Some suggestions follow that may be of assistance to any who contemplate the concert template to raise funds for bursaries.**

**1) Preparation is essential** - discuss within your Club membership what you expect to gain. For example, do you want a continued youth presence in your church or your club, etc. Then, if the project is workable, assign several individuals to assume responsibility for specified tasks, such as:

a) Location: Obtain permission from a suitable church for the use of a hall or sanctuary to stage a concert at a specified date and time.

b) Program: Select performers for the concert. The Chancel, Youth or Cherub choirs, or individuals from your own churches are a good source of musical talent. Consider the length of the show - 1 1/2 to 2 hours in length is likely adequate.

c) Publicity: Print posters to be distributed amongst the local churches and/or Presbytery. Do not forget the local community and your church bulletins.

d) Tickets: Prices charged in Winnipeg were \$10 for adults and \$6 for youth, 16 years and under (student age limits and prices may vary). Tickets were printed and distributed by the AOTS members.

## **2) Additional Information:**

a) Expenses: Covered by Manitoba District Council for the first two years, after which the program became self-supporting.

b) Rehearsals: None were held. Individuals and groups were allocated a specific time frame (e.g. 12 minutes) for their performances.

c) Participants: Their time was donated. Some even donate money!

d) Bursary Applications: Form letters and applications were sent originally to AOTS churches, then to a dozen area churches, and in 2004, to all United Churches (39) in the Winnipeg Presbytery.

## **Music Bursary Application Form**

Name of Musician \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ Choir/Music Director \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument (s) Played \_\_\_\_\_ Vocalist \_\_\_\_\_

Music Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Music Grade \_\_\_\_\_ # Years of Training \_\_\_\_\_

What are your plans for the future regarding music \_\_\_\_\_

How would the bursary be utilized \_\_\_\_\_

My application for this bursary is being recommended by \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership & Fellowship Report

Good News from Richard Dietriche

*First, the editor apologizes to Richard for not including his submission for the Spring Issue in which he requests individual members to write to their MP about the need for action against Sex Offenders.*

Richard persisted in his campaign to have something done. The Good News is that in July, Richard received a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Anne McLellan, thanking him for his concern and advising him that,

*"The new Sex Offender Information Registration Act has been passed and will result in the creation of the National Sex Offender Registry."*

"Under the Act, persons convicted of a sex offence listed in the legislation will be obligated to register within 15 days of conviction or release from prison. They will be required to re-register annually and every time they change addresses. Registrants will report to local police who will collect addresses and other personal information set out in the Act to be imputed to the Sex Offender Database that will be maintained by the RCMP. The sex offender database will allow police to conduct a search according to a full or partial address and the offence of a sex offender or both."

She concludes the letter with, *"Thank you again for taking the time to share the concerns of your organization on this important initiative."*

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Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

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The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hospitality.

## Church & Community Services Report - March, 2004

by Jim Lawrence, Chair

The Church and Community Services Committee is pleased to report that the first recipient of the 2004 Harry Colnett Scholarship of \$1,000 is Ms Jenna Templer of Windsor, Ontario.

Jenna is a fourth year student in the Environmental Engineering Undergraduate Co-op Program at the University of Windsor. This program focuses on the collection, treatment and distribution of water.

Commencing her undergraduate work in the fall of 2000, Ms Templer has since shown by her academic credentials that she is fascinated by her studies, and plans to continue her education through a Master's Program in Environmental Engineering. During the fall of 2003, she was one of a group of ten Canadians, headed by consulting engineer, Dr. Norm Becker, to work on a two-year old project to bring filtered water to two poor neighbouring villages in the Shandong province of China. Her travels in China and the work on the water purification and distribution systems have heightened her awareness of the desperate need for clean water in developing areas. Early this year, she was in Europe on a study trip concerning her environmental studies.

We have received glowing recommendations from her Professor and from the Associate Dean of Engineering Research and Graduate Studies concerning her "multi-disciplinary skills, her strong understanding of applying theory to solving practical problems", and her "commitment to working in developing countries in the area of water resources." After noting that she is also the highest ranking undergraduate student in this program, we are pleased to offer the Harry Colnett Scholarship to Jenna Templer.

Presentation of the scholarship was made by Bob Lewis at the AOTS Father and Son Banquet held in Harrow United Church on April 1st. About 100 fathers and sons were in attendance.

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Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Prayer and meditation to follow.

## Highlights of National AOTS Executive Conference Call Meetings May 16, 2004

### Motions:

MacKenzie / Lawrence: On the year of the Annual Meeting , which is not the year of the Biennial Convention, we should invite and pay reasonable expenses for all Club Presidents to attend the Annual meeting, who are near to the Conference in which the meeting is to take place. If the President cannot attend, he could nominate someone from his club to take his place.  
Carried.

Travel expenses will be paid for auto/car pooling at .25 per km.

Lawrence / Bishop: The finance committee consider changing the Conference President's budget to \$3600 for the 2005 year. Carried.

Bishop / Thompson: The finance committee consider issuing some travel advances for all National Council members. Defeated.

MacKenzie / Deitriche: That recognition for Club Secretaries and Treasurers take the form of a pin available from the National Office. Carried

Thompson / Bishop: That a National Directory of Club members be requested from clubs. These would be used to assist planning committees of conventions, roundups, retreats, etc. Such a list would not be sold or given to others, and would be used exclusively for AOTS, and protected by the Privacy of Information legislation. Carried.

### September 12 Meeting

- ◆ Thanks to Richard for going the extra mile in the Sex Offender Registry issue.
- ◆ 15 applications have been received for the Music Bursary.
- ◆ Spiritual Life & Leadership Chairman, George Bishop, promoted involvement of all clubs in discussion groups based on the book, Exploring Faith Questions, a new book published by the United Church. A discussion on this information is planned for the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ The 2005 Biennial Convention plans are proceeding well. Date: August 5 - 7, 2005. Place: Victoria University.
- ◆ A list of Items for sale at Head Office to be published in the Fall Issue of the Handshake.
- ◆ Motion:  
Deitriche/Bishop: That each National Council member be provided, free of charge, with a 10-note package of AOTS Hasty Notes to be used in promotional work and communications for our organization. Carried.

## 2003 AOTS PRICE LIST

### LEADERSHIP AIDS

Executive Handbook ( 3-ring Format) 1994	\$2.00
AOTS Constitution - 1987 Amended	\$0.30
AOTS Bylaws (3-ring Format) 1999	\$1.50
SPIRITUAL LIFE Handbook 2000	\$2.00
AOTS History "First 50 Years" 1923-1973	\$1.00
<b>AOTS 75 Anniversary 1923 - 1998 History</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
Leadership in Group Discussion (booklet)	FREE

### MEMBERSHIP

Club Membership Cards	\$0.10
LAPEL PINS CLUB - regular	\$5.50
INDIVIDUAL Member	\$5.50
PAST PRESIDENT (club)	\$5.50
Name Badges - 2 ½" metal	\$0.35
Local Life Membership Certificates	\$0.25
AOTS Tie	\$25.00
AOTS Glee Club CD (price includes postage)	\$10.00
Application for New Club Enrolment	Free
Nomination Form National Life Membership	Free
Individual Member Brochure & Application	Free

### AOTS STATIONERY

Letter Head - with AOTS logo - 8 1/2 X 11	\$0.04
AOTS Logo Cards with Luke 22, verse 27 4"X5" including envelopes 1 dozen	\$10.00

### PROMOTION

#### PAMPHLETS

You Were Asking About AOTS	Free
National AOTS Hospital Project	Free
Second Mile Support for AOTS	Free
Observer on Tape - sight impaired	Free

#### VIDEO (3 on one tape)

1. A Choice to Serve (AOTS Club promotion)	\$15.00
2. A Century of Service (Hospital Project)	
3. Men in the Church	

#### LOGOS - AOTS Crests on Vinyl Sheet

6" X 9"	\$20.00
12" X 16"	\$27.00
14" X 21"	\$30.00

#### DECALS

1" X ½" (12 on sheet)	\$0.35
1 1/2 X 1" ( 8 on strip)	\$0.25
3" X 1 3/4" sticky back	\$1.00
3" X 1 3/4" sticky front (for car windows)	\$1.00
4" X 2 5/8" sticky back	\$1.00
9 1/2" X 5 ½" sticky back	\$1.00

**AOTS CLOTH CRESTS (blazer pockets, etc.)** \$4.00

**SHIPPING & HANDLING** \$1.00

**GST & Prov. Tax included in Price**

*Note: The Editor had to fill this column. I decided to expand on two topics from the Council Executive Meeting.*

## Exploring Faith Questions

In his report, George Bishop, Chair of Spiritual Life and Leadership, talked about the book, *Exploring Faith Questions*, written by Anne Martin of the UCH staff. The book is designed for group study and discussion, an alternate to the Alpha Program.

Topics such as: What is Faith? Who is Jesus? What does the Bible do for You? How does Faith challenge you? All these provide a basis for a lively discussion. George suggested that AOTS could provide leadership by having some of the topics discussed at our club meetings and also lead in Congregational meetings of discussion of these important challenges in our faith.

The book is available from UCH at \$15 per copy.

For those clubs who are looking for programs for their meetings or who want to do something besides fund raising, George's suggestions are the ideal answer.

## Do It Now!

Ernie Orpin mentioned that not all club dues had been received yet. He wasn't complaining, just stating a fact. However, as a church treasurer for several years, I know what it was like when members waited until Dec. 31 to make their offering for the year.

Has your club paid your dues for 2004 yet? Time is running out. Thanksgiving is coming. That would be a good time to pay our dues as a way of showing our thanks. Not long until Hallowe'en. Who knows what the black cats, witches, owls and goblins will do at that scary time. Christmas follows quickly. We'll be so busy that we may forget to pay our dues, so we should get them paid now. Just after Christmas comes New Year's and we don't want stuff left over from 2004 because that would interfere with making our New Year's Resolutions. So, **Best Get It Done Now!**

Some people have insomnia so bad, they can't even sleep when it's time to get up.

# Devotion

by Gil Reashore

## Willing to Stand Alone

### Scripture: Mark 16: 14-18

[Key verse: 15] “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

**Opening Prayer:** God, you have shaped each one of us by unique design. You know us over our selves. You value us more than we can imagine. You weep when we are broken by our own misdoings. We gather now at this time to collect our prayers for one another and the world's people in an outpouring of devotion. Hear us, gracious God. Amen.

### “Daring to be like Daniel”

As an organization and as Club Members, we prepare and head back into a new fall season of meetings, planning and activities.

At the same time, as we get all affixed on activities here at home; let us not forget that we are living in a very challenging period in our history, which presents us with enormous opportunities to entertain our Aims and Purpose of this great organization: That of Presenting the Gospel.

As many crisis unfold, Christ's words in Matthew 24 come to mind: You will hear of wars and rumours of wars ....nation against nation ..... persecution .... And The Love Of Many Will Grow Cold.”

We all seek peace, but peace can be elusive. As Christian Men, we know True Peace can only be found in the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ.

But because of recent events, fear has been lit in the hearts of many. And, so, as hearts search for truth, they are more open to share the Gospel and hear the WORD proclaimed.

And what do we do about it? Do we bury our head in the sand? Do we hide in a hole? I would hope not! Let us stand firm in the Faith and be that beacon of Light that cannot be hidden (Matt.5:14)

Remember; that EVERY FOLLOWER OF CHRIST is a soldier in this war.

Think for a moment of Daniel when he was captured and taken to Babylon. There was not a more pagan society in the world at that time. Daniel proposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. Well, as Christian Men, we need to take this same vow - that we will not defile ourselves with the immorality of this world. We should dare to be like Daniel - willing to stand alone - willing to speak the truth - willing to uphold the WORD.

We cannot say that the job is just the responsibility of the pastor, priest or missionary. Our Lord's commission is, “YOU go into all the community and preach the Gospel to every creature.” [Mark 16:15] That command is for all of us, not just a select few.

Friends, I encourage EVERYONE, as Christian Men/Women; to work together in winning this battle of souls. In fulfilling our organizational AIMS – To Promote Christian Fellowship; To Deepen Spiritual Life, there is no greater opportunity; there is no greater battle field; than the world we live in today to act within and accomplish that feat.

So I challenge ALL, as we begin this new season of meeting together, that the desired decision will be: I Dare To Be Like Daniel; WILLING TO STAND ALONE. God Bless You All.

**Closing Prayer:** O God, we have become slaves of our own narrow self interest. We pay more attention to our possessions than to you. Our steps direct us away from you. God, show us the way to a better life. Rekindle with us the desire to know you better, to feed on your wisdom and to convey that wisdom to others. From this day forward. Amen and Amen.