

The Handshake



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

A O T S 85th Anniversary 1923 - 2008



As One That Serves

For 85 years, the AOTS has been involved in:

- introducing thousands of laymen to the spiritual fellowship of the church.
- helping give laymen practical training and experience in group leadership and volunteerism.
- spreading the good news of the gospel.
- providing lay ministry and support for ministerial staff.
- nurturing enthusiasm and goodwill within and between congregations.
- raising money and providing labour for church renovation projects.
- supporting countless local, national and international outreach programs and mission.
- Supporting ongoing national AOTS projects – Youth to Camp, Observer on Tape, Hospital Projects and scholarships.

INDEX

- Pg. 3 – President's Message
- Pg. 4 – Kairos 2008
- Pg. 5 – Church & Community Services Committee
- Pg. 6 – Men's Ministries Network
- Pg. 8 – Northminster AOTS – Central Region Roundup
- Pg. 9 – Minnedosa AOTS – Youth to Camp
- Pg. 10 – Spiritual Life & Leadership Column
- Pg. 11 – Regeneration Report
- Pg. 12 – Thought for today
- Pg. 13 – Grace Trenton AOTS – Holy Trinity Elliot Lake AOTS
- Pg. 14 – Toronto Conference Fall Rally
- Pg. 16 – "Jesus Loves Me"
- Pg. 17 – Banff Men's Conference
- Pg. 18 – Sarnia AOTS
- Pg. 19 – Harrow Malden AOTS
- Pg. 20 – Trinity Newmarket AOTS
- Pg. 21 – Membership & Fellowship Report
- Pg. 22 – Individual Membership application form

Handshake

AOTS, “As One That Serves”, is a church-related organization 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 January 8th, 1923, at Kerrisdale Methodist Church, now known as 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.

Photo submissions: If you want your original photo returned, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope with your submission.

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|-------------------------|---|
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| Regeneration | George Bishop |
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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 editions of the **PRINTED Handshake** are

March 31, 2008 & October 31, 2008

Something New!!

On the front page you will notice that a new **handshaking logo** has been added. This is taken from an actual photo as you can see from the above picture. This one features my local club in Newmarket. I would like to make this a regular feature in the Handshake. Have a like photo taken and sent to me with a short “bio” of the participants. Maybe we can show how diverse our clubs are and learn something new about each other.

Harold



The new “handshake”

(Take another look at the front page)

Trinity, Newmarket, Ontario AOTS President, Harold Dohn, on the left, shakes hands with Joseph Martin, past president, at our regular get-together every Monday morning at “Tim Horton’s”.

Joe hails from Jamaica, arriving here in 1968. He is an RN and retired from our local hospital. Joe is in charge of Trinity’s Tape Ministry and a faithful member of the Worship Committee. He was President of our AOTS for over six years.

Harold Dohn is a faithful member of our church choir. He is also a member of the York Regional Police Male Chorus, as well as a member of two local senior’s choirs. His working life covered everything from teaching school to office manager of an area automotive parts manufacturer. Two good men to have around

MARKING TIME

Marking time so many really do
While in school classes that is true
When on the job the time goes slow
Yes waiting for the whistle to blow
Marking time so many really do
While sitting in church in a pew
Just waiting for the service to end too
So you can go out with friends too
Marking time so many really do
Its quite a habit yes that is true
Marking time so many really do

MARKING TIME

An original poem by Richard Paul Deitriche



Dear fellow AOTS members,

It is with heavy heart that I am writing this message having heard that Murray Kerr has passed away. Murray was Life Member #44, a strong supporter of AOTS and a dear friend. He will be greatly missed.

I would like to introduce the Calgary Ogden AOTS club. They are the only club operating in Calgary. This club meets once a month, usually in a member's home, at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. They have an agenda and start with an opening prayer followed by a business meeting and closing. They use the AOTS Spiritual Life handbook. Following the meeting there is a time of fellowship when light snacks are served. These men are hosting a birthday party to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of AOTS Clubs on Sunday, April 3rd, 2008. There will be a time of singing, a guest speaker and a birthday cake! Invitations are going out to men's groups in other Calgary United Churches with the hope that some of those who attend will wish to join AOTS.

As one of our AOTS goals is to attract more members please consider printing off the member application form found on our website and invite acquaintances or friends in your church to join your club.

I have received an invitation asking AOTS to support **Connections 2008** to take place on Thursday, September 25th to Sunday, September 28th at Pearce Williams United Church Christian Centre (located not far from London, ON). They are asking that our clubs sponsor youth who wish to attend. More information can be found at www.united-church.ca/exploring/camping. This would tie-in with our own **Youth-to-Camp** project. Hopefully some clubs will choose to participate in this project. (See reprint of brochure on page 21.)

Your executive has been busy since the Biennial. A sub-committee is making good progress in getting a new treasurer on board shortly.

In closing,

Let us spread the love of God sent in Jesus to

Overcome the many instances of anger, rage and even minor upsets which

Very often lead to the death of relationships and lives, and

Encourage all to spread happiness, caring and sharing.

Bill Love



The Regeneration Committee is pleased to announce that the National AOTS will sponsor the *Sabbath Day* events at Kairos 2008. Kairos is a national conference and spiritual retreat for young adults aged 18-30. London Conference Youth & Young Adult Network will host Kairos 2008 at Five Oaks United Church Education & Retreat Centre, August 24-29, 2008. Anticipated attendance is 100-150 young adults from across Canada.

Theme streams / anticipated leaders

The Kairos 2008 theme is ***It Matters***. The entire conference will be devoted to study, discussion, worship, fellowship, and of course, fun. The theme streams and anticipated leaders are:

Self Awareness/Leadership – Adele Halliday

Arts & Creativity - Sandy Harron

Politics & Activism and Where the Church Fits – Matt Wynott

Environment – Chris Tindal

Technology, Culture and the Church – Shannon McCarthy

Wednesday, August 27 will be a special *Sabbath Day* to experience the local community and the environment through special experiences that complement the theme streams. *Sabbath Day* options are:

An Arts Experience at Elora

Operation Sharing in Woodstock

Adventures on the Grand

Francis Sandy Theological Centre

Hope Ropes at Ganadaoweh

Bike Journey to Paris and Brantford

Why does AOTS Support Kairos 2008?

We believe that AOTS should reach out to all generations to share our experience and encourage others to grow in their faith and service. For Young Adults, Kairos presents a wonderful opportunity to do just that.

- Kairos 2008 is a great opportunity to *extend the Kids to Camp Campaign* to the young adult generation. It is truly a camping experience for young adults that will surely serve them well in the future.
- Kairos 2008 is a great opportunity to *extend our experience* to the young adult generation. It is very similar to the Round-ups and National Conventions where so many AOTS men have experienced fellowship and spiritual growth. This is an opportunity to share our model with young adults.
- Kairos 2008 is a great opportunity to *extend our reach* to the young adult generation. This event goes outside the bounds of the Emerging Spirit Campaign, to a generation deserving of our support.

Cont'd on page 5

Cont'd from page 4

How Will AOTS Support Kairos 2008?

- ◆ The Regeneration Committee will provide a grant of \$7500 to sponsor the *Sabbath Day* events.
- ◆ National AOTS Executive and Regeneration Committee members will participate in *Sabbath Day* to provide personal testimony to the goals of AOTS and to encourage spiritual growth and service.

How Can AOTS Clubs Support Kairos 2008?

The Regeneration Committee would welcome the participation of individual clubs to support this national initiative. We have listed a few opportunities for your club. You will likely think of others:

- Encourage a young adult from your pastoral charge to attend Kairos.
- Promote Kairos at your Presbytery with the goal to find one young adult from the presbytery to attend. Presentation materials are available on the AOTS website Committee to support you in this.
- Provide financial support to one of the delegates (in whole or in part). Registration cost is expected to be \$375, plus travel expenses.
- Kairos is a great opportunity for development of lay members. If your pastoral charge has development funding available, consider Kairos.

For more information:

Visit the Kairos website at <http://www.Kairos2008.ca> for lots of information and an introductory video.

Visit the AOTS website at <http://www.aots.ca/> for supporting materials.

Contact Regeneration Committee members

George Bishop
John Cooke

gandh.bishop@rogers.com
cookejc@ebtech.net

We look forward to your support. *It Matters!*

CHURCH & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Harry Colnett Scholarship recipient was determined at a meeting of our Committee in mid-December. Andrew Vickerson received the \$1000 cheque at the end of December or first of January.

A native of Prince Edward Island, Andrew achieved his B.Sc.(Hons)(Biology) at St. Francis Xavier University in May of 2006. He is now working towards his M.Sc.(Aquaculture) at Memorial University in St John's, NL.

One of his referees said this of him: "Andrew has chosen Aquaculture - the farming of aquatic plants and animals for food production - as his career endeavour. Andrew is thoroughly devoted to the topic, and shows promise as a young researcher in the field of aquatic food production through farming. He has the necessary skills to further the science of shellfish aquaculture for the benefit of Canadian aquaculture farm operators. I have no doubt that he will be among the group of leaders in this field in the future". The other referee stated - "His program in shellfish aquaculture is focused toward the improvement of mussel aquaculture in Newfoundland and has many applications for world-wide food production".

The Scholarship Committee also reviewed a second application from a lady doing PhD research in the field of Human Nutrition, including field work in Kenya, at McGill University. We felt that her thrust in the development of food security on the African continent deserved a Scholarship. As there was only one \$1000 award possible in 2007, we decided to carry her name forward to a time in 2008 when sufficient funding became available! So, more about her at a later time.

Submitted by Jim Lawrence, Chair of C&CS Committee



Men's Ministries Network

The United Church of Canada

For: "The Handshake" online edition from: Lloyd Paul

Greetings to all of you who are connected to the AOTS men's ministry in the United Church of Canada.

I'll begin by introducing myself!

My name is Lloyd Paul and I am on contract with the General Council Offices of the United Church of Canada in the area of Men's Ministries. I began in July 2007 and will be on contract at least until December 2008. I am working with Anne Martin in the Congregational, Educational and Community Ministries unit. I work four hours/week, generally on Wednesday afternoons.

The focus of my work so far has been connecting with United Church congregations across the country to discover what is happening in the area of Men's Ministries, what are the challenges in developing ministries for men, and what are some of the ways that men are gathering within our congregations.

The AOTS is one model within our church for developing men's ministries. It has a long history and my sense is that AOTS continues to seek to reinvent itself so that it's ministry might meet the changing needs of men, evolving in response to the new realities in our world and in our church.

I have had the privilege of talking with Jim McKibbin, President Elect of the AOTS and I look forward to making contact with our National President, Bill Love, and developing a closer relationship with our leaders in the AOTS.

If any of our AOTS groups would like to hear about the work I am doing I would be happy to come and dialogue with you, sharing some of the joys and struggles we experience as we seek to deepen our ministry with men.

My contact information is the following:

Phone: 416-231-7680 Ex. 4046

Email: lpaul@united-church.ca

Men's Ministries Network: Celebrating, Strengthening, & Supporting Men's Groups and Men's Ministries

Cont'd on Page 7

Cont'd from Page 6

There are a number of continuing education events for men:

The AOTS and other men's groups offer a number of learning and fellowship opportunities.

Each October men from across the United Church gather in Banff for the annual Banff Men's Conference. This provides an excellent opportunity for men to network and deepen our faith life through presentations by a theme speaker and workshops on a variety of issues for men. For more information check out their website: www.banffmen.org

Five Oaks, one of our United Church retreat centres, located near Brantford, Ontario, offers events focusing on men's ministries.

Coming up very quickly are two events:

+Male Spirituality: Strength in Weakness, February 11 -14, and

+Male Spirituality Weekend, February 15-17.

Check their website at www.fiveoaks.on.ca or phone 519-442-3212.

Speaking of websites, the Men's Ministries Network is linked to our main United Church site. I am working at updating this site. Check it out. Go to www.united-church.ca and click at the top – "Faith & Education" and then you are into the Men's Ministry Network site. The AOTS is also a link here – www.aots.ca

The Infopac that goes out quarterly to all our pastoral charges includes a page called "Let's Talk" and it is put out by Anne Martin and me, focusing on the Men's Ministries Network. We have a number of ways to stay connected and to support and encourage the development of our ministry with men.

As I write this, our church year invites us on a Lenten journey. A forty day gift of time to listen for God's voice in our lives and in our church community.

May we receive this gift with open hearts.

Lenten Blessings.

Lloyd Paul

Men's Ministries

Congregational, Educational and Community Ministries

The United Church of Canada

Men's Ministries Network: Celebrating, Strengthening, & Supporting Men's Groups and Men's Ministries

A HISTORY OF NORTHMINSTER AOTS

Northminster United Church in Oshawa, Ontario, (Bay of Quinte Conference) has its own history with AOTS. From research carried out during the 75th Anniversary celebrations of Northminster United Church, there is documented evidence in the church archives of an AOTS Club receiving its charter in 1931. The first president was J.B. Reed. As years went on, the club disbanded and was again re-organized in 1949. Harold Hawkshaw, who is still active in the congregation, was a member of Northminster AOTS during the 1950's. During the 1960's, Dr. Harry Mellow, along with familiar names like, Ross White, Victor Cubitt, Ernie Cook, Herb Chesebrough, Roy Barrand and Jim Young, kept the club alive.

As sometimes happens, there was another period when the club ceased to be active. Then, in 1995, (Rev.) Richard Parker ignited the flame of enthusiasm and rallied a core group of people together and a new charter was received. With Richard as President, followed by Bill Nash (1998), the late Harry Gibbard (1999 - 2006), and currently, Morley Davidson, the Northminster United Church AOTS Men's Club continues to carry on. The Club has been involved in numerous projects, providing Soup and Sandwich Luncheons on Outreach Sunday and at other times during the year, the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, giving financial assistance to youth attending Camp Quin-Mo-Lac each year and financially supporting many other ongoing projects within the Northminster Church. The men meet for breakfast fellowship, the second Sunday of the month, excluding June, July and August.



AOTS is looking for new members. All men are encouraged and welcome to join AOTS. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow members of Northminster and share in the ongoing work of our Lord and Saviour in the church.

Submitted by Morley Davidson, President, Northminster AOTS

Calling all Men in Central Canada

Central Region Annual Spring Roundup is being held at the Salvation Army's Conference Centre at Jackson's Point on **April 25th, 26th and 27th, 2008.**

If you didn't get a copy of the registration form in the mail, you can download it from the AOTS web site www.aots.ca

The goal is to break the 100 attendees mark this year. Stephen Finch is working on a special "Youth Programme". For more information email Al Anthony at a.i.anthony@sympatico.ca

Minnedosa United AOTS Anniversary Celebration, Manitoba



On Sunday, January 20, 2008, the Minnedosa United Church AOTS Men's club marked the 85th anniversary of AOTS in Canada and the 53rd year of service to the Minnedosa United Church, by leading the worship service and holding an Anniversary Celebration after church. The congregation was invited to share a piece of cake and a glass of juice before heading home.

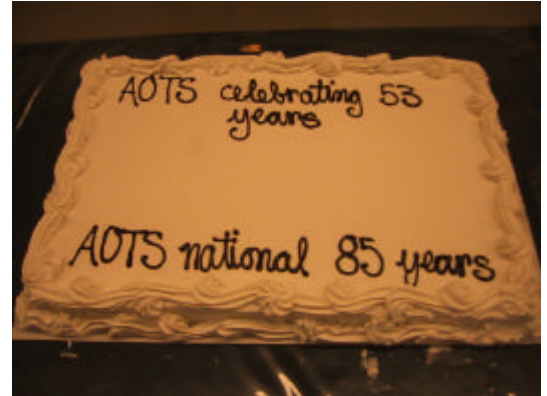
The congregation wished the club well and indicated that they hoped the club would continue for many more years.

The Minnedosa club members thanked Dr.

Cliff Matchett for bringing the idea to Minnedosa and helping form the club 53 years ago. We are very proud to say that Mr. Clayton Searle, one of the charter members is still very active in all of the club's projects.

The Minnedosa AOTS are proud to be a part of the Minnedosa United Church and affiliated with the National Organization.

God being our helper, we will continue to serve.



Just a little reminder from our National "Youth To Camp" Director.

Do your part in supporting our youth in the great camping experience.

Mark Browning

Spiritual Life and Leadership Column

At the beginning of each month you will find a new devotional message on the website, www.aots.ca, under “Devotions”, in the format which was used in the Spiritual Life Handbook. You may wish to use these in your monthly meetings.

In this issue of “The Handshake” the **thought for today** is based on material from a private project of Jim Taylor and Ralph Milton. Their initial material is available on www.story-lectionary.com. The **Story Lectionary** is a volunteer venture with no remuneration for Jim or Ralph or for Linnea Good who provides music and word “to bring scripture and theme alive”. They feel that “the ‘Kairos’ time has come to devise an additional resource that speaks to the hearts as well as the minds of contemporary Christians. Many leaders....have been advocating....the extensive use of story to invoke the imaginations and awaken the spiritual senses of those hearing the sermon,”

Marcus Borg, in *The Heart of Christianity* stated “The emerging paradigm...is not very much concerned with the historical factuality of the Bible stories, but much more with their meanings. It is not bothered by the possibility that the story of Jesus’ birth and resurrection are metaphorical rather than literally factual accounts. It asks, “Whether it happened this way or not, what is the story saying? What meaning does it have for us?”

There are at least two ways of “knowing” – the “intuitive” and the “intellectual”. Most of what we hear today in our churches fosters the intellectual at the expense of the intuitive. Both are needed to enter the full experience of worship. The intuitive way of knowing is at home in the world of timelessness and eternity and is nurtured by story, drama and the visual arts.

According to Jim, Ralph and Linnea, the “emerging church” needs a preaching resource that is responsive to the needs of the lay leaders who are emerging at all levels of the church, including preaching. Early Hebrew theology was based on story, as was the ministry of Jesus. He was a master of the parable and used it almost to the exclusion of anything else. A First Nations story-teller from Washington state offers a helpful perspective. “I tell the people,” he said, “that I don’t know if things happened this way. But this story is true.”

We invite you to sample the stories from the story lectionary, and we invite your comments and suggestions.

George Bishop – Spiritual Life and Leadership Chair

Murray Kerr

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of **Murray Kerr of Winnipeg on Monday January 14, 2008**
A true example of “As One That Serves”



Regeneration – As One That Serves

In the February devotion on the AOTS website, www.aots.ca, it is noted that the season of Lent is “about engaging in the ongoing business of renewal, regeneration and new birth.” Lent can be a time for meditation. In recent years, meditation has been promoted as a kind of relaxation exercise for busy people who find it difficult to rest. We are recommended to incorporate into our routine a little time each day – perhaps up to an hour – to sit in silence and focus on a word or an image. Scientific evidence supports the value of meditation as a tool for productivity and efficiency at work. But the original purpose of meditation was spiritual, to withdraw the mind from everyday concerns so that it might come in contact with the divine. So that the mind and the soul might renew, regenerate and we might experience rebirth.

As a suggestion, you may wish to meditate on the regeneration initiatives which were identified at the AOTS National Council meeting held at Trent University, Peterborough in August 2007. An update on the initiatives as described in the Fall 2007 issue of The Handshake shows the following:

1 – **Communication** - the website (www.aots.ca) continues to expand as more information is fed to our webmaster, Mark Browning and information and inspiration is spread through the Handshake as this electronic issue is brought to publication by the editor, Harold Lorenz

2 – **Dues** – the letter of invitation for individual membership went to all congregations in the October Infopac under the name of our moderator, Rev. David Guiliano. We know that some new members have been accepted. Your work with neighbouring churches, especially through 85th birthday parties, is helping to keep the name, the aims, the objectives and some of the successes of AOTS in front of people of the United Church of Canada.

3 – the **task group** examining new projects outside Canada continues to review suggested ideas and is currently reviewing projects with General Council personnel for total church-wide approval of our initiatives. We trust we will jointly identify a project or projects which AOTS can champion which will appeal to many men of the United Church of Canada to fund and in which active physical participation is possible.

4 – the work with the **Kairos young adults** event is proceeding and is outlined in detail elsewhere in this issue as well as on the website. This should be a most worthwhile event for young men and women in the 18 to 30 age group. Please review the details and invite and support those in this age group in your congregation and your local presbytery.

5 – the **camp for youth** project is at the planning stage within Toronto Conference AOTS executive.

We welcome John Cooke of Sarnia to the Regeneration Committee and would welcome your input on any of these initiatives and/or any other suggestions or proposals you wish to have considered locally or nationally.

From George Bishop – [Regeneration Committee Chair](#)

Thought for today...

Based on a story titled “the Zebedee Boys and their Mom” from story-lectionary.com by Ralph Milton

What are we getting ourselves into?

“Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26-28

When Jesus came by and asked James and John to follow him, they had simply left their father, Zebedee, standing there holding his fishing nets. Their mother, Salome, thought it was a “hare-brained” idea, but decided to go along with them to make sure her boys had enough to eat and clean clothes to wear.

She followed them wherever they travelled. At one time as they were travelling to Jerusalem, Jesus had a special meeting with just the 12 disciples. Salome pried out of her sons what Jesus had told them. They told her that Jesus had said he would be put on trial and handed over to be crucified, and would die but then be raised up on the third day.

Salome asked what was to happen to them when all this took place, and since they didn’t know, told her they were going now to ask Jesus. When they arrived where Jesus was, Salome got on her knees and asked, “Jesus, when you get into your kingdom, I want you to give my boys the highest places in your new organization. I want one to sit at your right hand, and the other at your left.”

Jesus looked sad and surprised, “You don’t know what you’re asking for,” he said. “That’s not the way things work.” Then Jesus turned to James and John. “It’s going to be hard and painful for you,” he said, “Just being one of my disciples – just being associated with me – will be tough enough. But I can’t make promises about what will happen when I am with God in his kingdom.”

Soon the other disciples heard what Salome had asked for her sons. They were ticked off and let James and John know it.

“You’re acting just like the people in high places,” Jesus said, “the power mongers, the politicians, and the moneyed business people. They always want to know who is top dog so they can throw their weight around. It shouldn’t be that way with you. That’s not how we live in God’s kingdom – God’s shalom. The one who is everyone’s servant is the greatest. Those who desire greatness in God’s eyes must be everyone else’s slave. That is why I am here to be your servant. I am here to serve you, to help you, and if necessary to give up my life for you.”

Everyone in the group sat in silence for a long while. “What are we getting ourselves into?” they wondered, “Am I really strong enough to handle it?”

Let us pray – O God, each of us call ourselves “one that serves”,
But we don’t always know where or who or why or when or even how to serve.
Are you showing us?
Will you strengthen us so we can handle it?
Thank you for asking us to be your servants. Amen.

George Bishop – Spiritual Life and Leadership Chair

On the Lighter Side

Just because a doctor has a name for your condition doesn’t mean he knows what it is.
If white wine goes with fish, do white grapes go with sushi?
Did monkeys invent the monkey wrench?
When the going gets tough, the tough use duct tape.
Creativity is the art of concealing your sources.
A key ring is a handy gadget that allows you to lose all your keys at once.
Flying is the second greatest experience known to man, landing is the first.

Grace United, Trenton, Ontario Celebrations



Grace United AOTS wasted no time in celebrating the 85th year of AOTS. The party was held on January 7th, 2008 with twenty-three guests and eighteen members in attendance. It was Isabel Anthony who put the icing on the cake as her contribution to the 85th celebration.



As you can see..... smiling faces everywhere your look. It was a great party.

Submitted by Al Anthony, President of Bay of Quinte AOTS

Holy Trinity, Elliot Lake, Ontario AOTS Celebrations



On Sunday January 6th, 2008 members of Holy Trinity United AOTS Men's Club celebrated the 85th Anniversary of AOTS with the congregation during the fellowship hour following the regular Service. Bill Laking, on the left, assists Ken Lane, Treasurer, in the middle, all under the watchful eyes of President Richard Deitriche.

The men of the AOTS wanted to celebrate this anniversary with the whole congregation as sort of a "Thank You" for the very generous support that they receive all year long.

Later on in the year we plan to invite other church men's groups to join with us in celebrating this special occasion. This will naturally mean another cake for all to enjoy.

Submitted by Richard Paul Deitriche

13th Toronto Conference AOTS Fall Rally Report

Bestowing the Gifts

Preparing the Legacy of the Elders

Trinity United Church in Newmarket, Ontario once again hosted this year's Fall Rally on November 3, 2007. Our host church AOTS provided a buffet style continental breakfast and a wonderful lunch served by the Trinity UCW.

Our keynote theme speaker was Reverend David MacDonald, a member of the Residential Schools Steering Committee of the United Church. David MacDonald was elected to Parliament six times representing ridings in Western PEI and Rosedale and served as a cabinet minister for Joe Clark's government. He served Canada on numerous occasions both as a government and U.N. representative on myriad international commissions. Reverend MacDonald's spoke on the topic of *Bestowing the Gifts of Eldership*.

This presentation was followed by three workshops facilitated by Jim Patterson, George Bishop and Jim McKibbin.

Jim McKibbin lead a workshop entitled the *Legacy of Eldership*. Participants were asked to recall any life changing events (i.e. a near death experience) and describe how they reacted, what they did, what wisdom they found.

George Bishop led a session on *Engaging Younger Men*. George has been leading regeneration work in the AOTS for several years. His discussion group focused on new ways of approaching younger men regarding men's spirituality. The discussion included consideration of the Emerging Spirit campaign targeted to 30 – 45 year olds.

Jim Patterson led a session entitled *Pass it On* which examined the issue of intergenerational approaches to inspiring youth work in the church. The session focused on camp work and the decision of the Toronto Conference AOTS to support the *7 Years of Plenty* Campaign to restore camp work in the Toronto Conference.

After the lunch break, Jim McKibbin, president-elect of the National AOTS, made a presentation entitled *Servant Leadership*. That presentation is reproduced elsewhere in The Handshake.

Reverend Brigadier-General (Ret'd) David Estey acted as Chaplain and led us in worship in closing out the day. His reflection was entitled *Learning from the Spider*.

The 13th Fall Rally was a wonderful day of spiritual fulfillment as the AOTS Toronto Conference addressed the question of 'leaving it all on the ice'.

On Servant Leadership

Notes from Jim McKibbin's remarks at the AOTS Fall Rally, Newmarket, ON, November 3, 2007.

We live in an immortality culture and a self-improvement society, a fast food nation bent on instant gratification and addicted to ten second sound bites.

That is not to say that people are not conscious of their immortality. They are, however, culturally assailed with images that evoke the opposite perspective. Death is seen as an interruption to life and not as a natural process of it.

We are reminded of the fact that no one at the point of death wishes that they spent more time at the office.

Elders have a tremendous contribution to make to spirituality and congregational development in the United Church of Canada. Bestowing the gifts of that wisdom is a matter of listening well to the needs of those who look for guidance. Elders understand the dangers of living in an 'immortality culture'. They know more than most that life is not a dress rehearsal. As Elders we know the value of the hockey phrase to 'leave it all on the ice'.

As activists in As One That Serves, we understand Jesus' teaching on this question; not only from Luke 22: 26 "but not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader **as one that serves.**"

But also..

You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles, lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be a servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave to all". (Mark 10:42-45)

The legacy of eldership and the servant leadership required of it, necessitates that we act as Jesus acted.

Recently we have seen in Canada this discussion of 'reasonable accommodation'; that those of us who have been here need only 'reasonably' accommodate those who are coming anew.

What could be wrong with acting 'reasonably'? Would Jesus have acted reasonably? Probably not. Jesus was a radical accommodator. Jesus accommodated the lepers and the prostitutes and the tax-collectors. Jesus accommodated everyone. **Jesus saw the face of God in everyone.**

Is this debate in Quebec no less the same issue? And who is it, may we ask, who is raising the discussion, "reasonable accommodation only".

"Those of us who have been here" most often means those of us who are the descendants or inheritors of the conquerors of this land; those who took this land from those to whom it rightfully 'belonged'.

Radical accommodation necessitates that we adopt a servant leadership model in our spiritual and secular approaches to life. As this organization ages and achieves maturity in its wisdom let us carefully consider how we might 'leave it all on the ice'.

Thank you .

Jim McKibbin

Our Thanks to Charlie Klein for this:

Many years ago, while watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years..... He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the Church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome and introduction of this speaker, as the applause quieted down he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gate to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.....

'When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50 odd years preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heart break and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me.....the only thing that would comfort was this verse...

“Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
We are weak but he is strong.....
Yes, Jesus loves me...
The Bible tells me so.”

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

A pastor once stated, 'I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn “Jesus Loves Me” (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best.'



Senior version of “Jesus Loves Me”.

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair, or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of 'Jesus Loves Me'. It is quite good, so read, sing and enjoy:'

'JESUS LOVES ME'

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

(CHORUS)

**Yes, Jesus Loves Me..Yes, Jesus Loves Me...
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, The Bible Tells Me So.**

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

(CHORUS)

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

(CHORUS)

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

(CHORUS)

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

(CHORUS)

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

Banff Men's Conference – 2007

NEW BEGINNINGS

God's Love Is Like A Prairie Dawning.

This is the fourth Banff conference that I have had the privilege of attending. The difference this time was my youngest son James Douglas from Winnipeg motored with me to Banff. Our trip started on Thursday noon at Brandon, MB by attending the Central United Church Men's Club monthly luncheon. We then struck off on the long drive across Saskatchewan and Alberta to the lovely Banff Conference Center. As we turned the last corner into Banff the sun came out and what a wonderful sunny weekend we had. The beauty and magnitude of the Rocky Mountains is hard to describe.



As I had known the theme speaker **Mr. Allan Saunders** from his early life, I was looking forward to hearing his addresses. Allan grew up in Manitoba and attended the Riding Mountain Conference of Churchmen at Clear Lake Manitoba, for several years prior to ordination. I was not surprised to find Allan a much changed, more mature individual with a very confident speaking style. Allan's themes for his presentations included 1) New Beginnings 2) Keeping the end in mind. 3) Life in the meantime. Referring to his early life experiences, the Prairie Dawn continually offers to us the hope of new beginnings and how we should be attentive to how things have ended so we can keep in mind the resources that we have for our continued journey.

After registering, finding our rooms and a beautiful supper in the new dining hall, the conference opened in the Max Bell Auditorium with singing and a wonderful worship service led by **Rev. Dexter van Dyke** – *can you hear the bell tolling?* Dexter used this theme throughout the conference and I found it most effective. Congratulations Dexter.

A very dynamic musical team from Regina, Diane Taylor-Neale, Heritage UC, Regina and Rev. Ken Powers, Eastside UC, Regina led the music. You can find some of their songs that Diane and Ken taught us in "*More Voices*". If you like something new for your musical program, it will be worthwhile looking up Ken and Diane's contribution to "*More Voices*". I would especially recommend "*A New Heart I Will Give You*" and "*A Love That Heals Friends*". A special thank you to Ken and Diane for helping make the singing such a delight.

The Saskatchewan organizing committee is to be commended for their work in organizing the afternoon and evening workshops.

The ten workshops covered a wide range of interesting topics that seemed to be enjoyed immensely by the delegates. I myself sat in with facilitator - **Tim Scorer**, a freelance educator and spiritual director living on Bowen Island, BC, discussing the "*Experiencing the Bible Again for the first Time*" a new discussion group format being offered by Wood Lake Books the UC publishing house. This is a ten-session group study for about twelve participants with a leaders guide, DVD, participants hand book and a resource book.

Padre **Larry Wright** of Edmonton led the second workshop that I attended. Larry is a United Church minister and twenty year Padre. *Larry has just returned from a six-month tour of duty in Afghanistan.* Larry recounted some of his experiences from Afghanistan, using some of the every day common occurrences as life unfolded in the tour of duty to try and bring strength and understanding to the people of Afghanistan. He started by displaying the mats on the floor, which are a part of the custom for any public meeting and the serving of tea

Cont'd on Page 18

Cont'd from Page 17

before discussions can begin. He discussed how the public leaders would meet with the army to discuss the situation around the small communities. Larry encourages us to spread the word that the news that we see on the TV is not near the entire story. The real news is the good that is being done by very common people to help establish schools, fair trade practices and safe places for the people of Afghanistan.



The men were saddened to hear that the proposed trip by The Right Reverend David Giuliano, Moderator of the United Church of Canada had to be cancelled because of medical complications. Our Prayers go out to David, that God be with him in his battle with cancer. We pray for a speedy and full recovery and a quick return to His calling.

After a very quick Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning of delicious food, wonderful Christian Fellowship and fun it was time to say "God Bless until we meet again".

*Submitted by "As One Who Serves"
Harvey Douglas, Western Vice President*

P.S. If you have never attended a Men's Conference, you have no idea what you have missed. I sure recommend that you look for a group get together. Banff is one of the finest.

Sarnia, Ontario Grace United AOTS club had a busy January celebrating the 85th Anniversary.

On January 20th, we celebrated with the congregation by having cake at the after Church coffee time. Sarah Morrison, wife of our minister Brad Morrison, assisted by sharing her cake making and decorating talents as shown in the photo.

We knew the young people who gather in the gym after church would finish their cake but were a little surprised when the large cake made for the more senior members also "disappeared". I guess it was good cake!!



Jack Cleave also had a display showing a lot of the history of AOTS for the congregation to enjoy.

On Sunday January 27th, we were fortunate to have David Morris, Central VP, join us for our monthly breakfast meeting. His update on the AOTS National initiatives was much appreciated. We managed to catch a photo of David (in the center) with Jack Cleave on his right and John Cooke to his left. Thanks David, for making the early trek on a winter's day.

Submitted by Paul Cooper

Harrow Malden AOTS had another great year.



The Pie Booth

Our club has had an active year in 2007. We made 727 pies and purchased more than 400 for the pie booth at the Harrow Colchester Fall Fair.

In November we had an appreciation night for all those volunteers who made pies and worked in the booth, at which we

were given a slide presentation on the church's web page at www.harrowunited.org. Many members of the congregation at **Harrow United Church in Harrow, ON** work hard to make the booth a success.



Busy making Pies

The December meeting was ladies night.

Our wood working shop got under way again this fall with 9 youth participating. The club is once again involved with selling Christmas cakes, and we usually sell about 2,000 lbs.

Submitted by Ken Brook, President, Don Mannell, Secretary

Editor's Note: Be sure to visit Harrow's web site. I am sure you will find it very interesting and informative.



Youth & their projects

Quotable Quotes

Think of yourself as on the threshold of unparalleled success. A whole clear, glorious life lies before you. Achieve! Achieve!

- Andrew Carnegie

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do that by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover

- Mark Twain



**Birthday congratulations to Donald Morton
of Duncan British Columbia.**

**Don was 101 in October of 2007 and is
looking forward to being 102 in 2008**

Laws of Life (*A reminder, that no matter how smart, lucky, or cautious you may be.....these are Laws.*)

Law of the Workshop – Any tool or part, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability – The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Variation Law – If you change traffic lanes, the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

Law of the Result – When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Bio-mechanics – The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Trinity Newmarket, Ontario AOTS takes 85 years in stride...



To help celebrate this special event, the men sent out invitations, by written word and follow-up phone calls, to seven surrounding churches. "A roast beef dinner" was thought to be enticing. A good turn-out of our members became a reality, but the invitation to other churches was not so well received. We were pleased to have one visitor join us. This may not be so bad really, as we believe we may have the beginnings of some measure of success in our neighbour to the east of us.

Our special guest speaker was Jim McKibbin, President Elect of National AOTS. Jim also doubles as President of Toronto Conference AOTS Council. Jim's topic, "**Where We Were, Where We Are and Where We are Going**". We got a little history lesson, followed by the status of AOTS at the present time, and a little direction as to where we are headed.

We were all left with the feeling that AOTS in the future is in "good hands" as Jim supports our President Bill Love, and prepares to lead AOTS National in the coming years.

Holy Trinity Elliot Lake, Ontario, Christmas Breakfast Meeting

To start the proceedings, President Richard Deitriche asked everyone where they were born, where did you live before moving to Elliot Lake, and how long they have lived in Elliot Lake. It was an "eye opener" to hear from everyone present. We had 42 were in attendance. Ruth Blewett, on the piano, and Jean Toovey lead us in the singing of Christmas carols.

A special thank you to all who helped make this a very good time. Rev Peter Tucker did the Christmas Message related to gifts at Christmas.

During the singing of "Here Comes Santa Claus", lead by Ruth and Jean, Santa in the form Ken Pierce, standing in for Bob Blewett, made the rounds giving out gifts to all the ladies with President Richard close behind with Christmas cake and chocolate bars. During the short business meeting, it was decided to donate \$1,000.00 to help with paying for a new PA System.

Rev Brian Bigelow closed the meeting in prayer, bringing to a close a very enjoyable evening for all members, wives and guests.

Submitted by Club President Richard Paul Deitriche

SELBY - EMPEY HILL, Napanee, Ontario AOTS 2007

During the year thirteen active members met on the fourth Thursday except during the summer. Some of our interesting speakers were:

- Master Corporal Gord Bell telling of his recent tour of duty in Afghanistan
- O.P.P. Inspector Ron Van Straalen, advisor to the Prime Minister of Iraq
- Gary Arnold, who arranged for the delivery of hospital beds to India
- Lieutenant Dave Bashow, a retired fighter pilot and author
- Tom and Cheryl Martin, missionaries to Africa and Peru

Activities were:

- Tour of The Marine Museum in Kingston in March
- Summer picnic in August
- Christmas Ladies' Night Banquet

Our major fundraiser was a pancake supper held in March.

- Three members helped at Wellington Fish Fry on Canada Day.
- Three members attended the National Convention in Peterborough in August.
- Six members attended the Fall Rally at Quin-Mo-Lac in September.

Donations made in 2007:

AOTS Second Mile Project, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, Salvation Army, Foster Parents' Plan, Lennox and Addington Hospital Foundation, G.E.M.S Canada, Helping Cope Through Hope.

2007 was an interesting and enjoyable year.

Submitted by Elwood Hughes

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Greetings in Our Lord God's Name and Happy New Year to every one that reads this message. I have a health problem with both legs and feet now, my diabetes is causing poor blood circulation. I now must use a cane to get around and I am not allowed to fly and find traveling in a car or van for more then 15 minutes very uncomfortable with my legs locking up on me. This creates a problem for me as your Membership & Fellowship Chair. Not being able to travel to Conventions, Roundups etc., leaves me with the thought of perhaps looking for a Co-Chair. This will be discussed with the National Executive, and in the meantime I will be carrying on as best I can.

There are a lot of opportunities for men to serve in our local clubs, at conference level and as members of the National organization. I am asking each one of you to consider stepping forward and providing leadership at any level of AOTS. It is time to "get out and sell" AOTS at all levels. Let's make 2008 a year of progress! Please feel free to email me at rpdpersona.ca or call 705-848-3997 or use snail mail to: 2 Central Ave., Elliot Lake, ON P5A 2E9.

Submitted by Richard Paul Deitriche, Membership and Fellowship Chair

Refer to Bill Love's message on Page 3



Connections 2008

The United Church of Canada's National Camping Conference

Celebrate — Nurture — Strengthen United Church Camping



Photo by Kathleen Gorga

Keynote Speaker

David Roche

David is an inspirational humorist, a motivational speaker, and a performer who has transformed the challenges and gifts of living with a facial disfigurement into a compelling message that uplifts and delights audiences!



September 25–28, 2008

Pearce Williams Christian Centre
Fingal, Ontario

Pre-Events:

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Participants in the Pre-Event will have the option of attending a Tour Day or a Spiritual Retreat Day.

Registration pamphlets will be mailed to all United Church Camps in January 2008.

Save! Early Bird Registration \$265 Late Registration \$300

Early Bird Deadline:
August 19, 2008

Final Registration Deadline: September 2, 2008
No registrations will be accepted after this date!

"A can't miss event full of everything you need for United Church Camping! Come live, laugh, love, learn, and share with your friends of God. You'll be happy you did."

"Incredible. Passionate. Moving. Faith-filled and inspiring. Every camp should be here."

More information will be posted online at www.united-church.ca/exploring/camping as it becomes available!

Edited Reprint of Individual Membership application in the National AOTS Men's Club

To: **the men of the congregation**

Re: **celebration of the 85th anniversary of the AOTS (As One That Serves) men's organization**

In 2008 AOTS celebrates the anniversary of its beginning, January 1923, starting up in British Columbia. **This year the organization invites each congregation of the United Church of Canada to name one man to become a member.**

The annual dues will be waived for 2008, but all the benefits will be available to the new members. These include: copies of AOTS publications, bulletins and newsletters; invitations to upcoming men's events including conventions, rallies, roundups, conferences, and workshops.

The "club" with the acronym AOTS was established in Kerrisdale Methodist, Vancouver, as a men's service organization with Jesus Christ as its reason for being. "As One That Serves" is taken from the 22nd chapter of Luke, verse 27 in which Jesus says to his disciples "for I am among you as one that serves".

The aims of the organization are the same as they have been from the beginning:

To promote Christian fellowship

To deepen the spiritual life of men

To develop an effective program of Christian service

Each of these aims is important to the men of this organization and they are carried out in part as follows:

Christian fellowship - through small groups within congregations and through planned presbytery, conference and national events

Spiritual life - through published devotional materials on paper or on the website (www.aots.ca), and worship and workshops at planned events

Christian service - through local projects as well as national projects such as physical and financial support to United Church camps and financial support for campers, scholarships for students planning to go to a third world country and financial support for special hospital equipment and services.

Please complete and send the following application form:

Application for Individual Membership in
The National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone _____ e-mail _____
Home Church _____

Mail to: AOTS National Office
JIM Upright
10 – 4041 Sannich Road
Victoria, BC, V8X 1Z2

or e-mail to: jim@upright.net

This form can be downloaded from the AOTS Website @ www.aots.ca