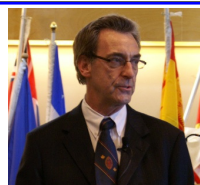


THE HANDSHAKE



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



President's Report

The Dondi Project - Doing Something New

During the last weekend of May, I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada where I was honored to be elected as a commissioner to the 40th General Council (GC) which took place in Kelowna BC in August. More on that later.

The theme of the AGM was *Behold I Do A New Thing. Can You Not See It?" Isaiah 43:19*. The theme was consistent with the one we chose for our Biennial Roundup, which is also the theme for the 40th GC. *Down to the Potters House (and he reshaped it into another vessel)*, Jeremiah 18: 1-6.

Doing a new thing is always a challenge. There is an element of “letting go” in the “newness”. Prior to speaking of something new, Isaiah says: "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing". Letting go is challenging but it is also often divisive in bringing into being what is new. **In AOTS we are seeing lots of changes.**

During our Biennial Roundup, Jackie Harper presented an excellent overview of marriage and outlined the evolutionary aspect of how we have seen the identity of marriage change over time. Her historical perspective provided an insight into the forms marriage took in the biblical story: monogamy, polygamy, concubines, Levirate tradition (a man is required to marry his deceased brother's wife or widow) and interfaith and inter-racial marriage.

In addition she provided a focus on the institutionalization of marriage, first in the church in the middle ages when marriage became a sacrament and later in Canadian history to the time in 1793 when only Anglican clergy had the right to officiate at marriages. This changed when Congregationalist clergy were given the right to officiate at marriages in 1829, followed by ordained ministers in 1857 and later when same-sex marriage was included in marriage legislation. Jackie's complete PowerPoint presentation is available on the AOTS website.

Clearly our understanding of marriage has changed over time. But what is perhaps most striking about the change is its constancy.

In AOTS new things and change abounds. The necessity for change is clearly a task at hand. The Biennial Roundup saw us adopt a strategy to *extend the influence of AOTS* through our work with the Men's Ministry Network (MMN).

And to be sure, AOTS Past President George Bishop was front and centre at the Toronto Conference AGM promoting the exciting news about the *Dondi Project* sponsored by AOTS and the MMN. The leaflet for the project indicates that drumming and rhythm events will take place in communities across Canada, facilitated by the “Abbey North Drummers”.

Canadian missionaries started the school in 1914 and the United Church has had a long-standing involvement in the school. The Dondi Project commits to raise \$1,000,000 over 12 months in support of local efforts to transform education in Angola by helping fund the reconstruction and restoration of the Dondi School which was destroyed through years of conflict and civil war. Education is seen as a key to recovery and progress in Angola.

The project will reach to men of all ages, growing a network that will engage, unite and inspire. To learn more about the Dondi Project connect with the project website at www.dondiproject.com.

To host an event with the Abbey North Drummers, contact Bazza Hayward at 705-854-0265 or 416- 907-3549 or email hayward6@sympatico.ca

Jim McKibbin President, AOTS



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AOTS, “As One That Serves”, is a church-related organization of men initiated in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship, 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 or individual members and from a variety of other contributors who are interested in sharing their ideas and interests with other men or groups.. It is provided to AOTS members twice yearly by the National AOTS office. The views, comments and opinions published in the *Handshake*, both printed and electronic forms, are not necessarily those of the National AOTS Association.

All submissions are subject to edit for content and length.

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

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The AOTS web page can be found at <<www.aots.ca>>
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The deadline for submissions to the next edition of the
PRINTED Handshake is April, 2010

Editor's Note: My apologies for the Handshake being a month or so delayed. It took me extra time to get organized to produce this edition due to our decision to sell our home of 45 years and move into a condo. The “downsizing” was a real “shock”. I had no idea that we had accumulated so much “stuff” that we didn't need over the years. The move went well, but, finding things once the move was made is another story.

I received a very nice note from Arnold Ranneris of Victoria BC and a member of Oak Bay United AOTS a while back. Arnold, if you read this, firstly I would like to thank you for the kind words and then would like to take you up on the offer to do a book review on Ralph Milton's “Angels in Red Suspenders”, but please be mindful of the space limitations. You will notice that to make some longer articles “fit” I reduce the size of the font.

In Memoriam - Don Reed

A long-time member of Kew Beach United, later to become Beach United, Don was described constantly as thoughtful and gracious; a man who lived a life of integrity, honesty and vitality; a gracious man; one who was generous in his conversation.

As an AOTS member in a congregation where there was no AOTS club, Don regularly attended our fall rallies and spring roundups. He was an independent thinker and everyone was his friend. He made no enemies. He took the high road, always.

Don's funeral was very much a tribute to his work as a man of God. The service was attended by Art Dayfoot, 94, who remembered Don's father when they were both missionaries in China. Reverend Dayfoot spoke of the large Canadian School that existed near Fu Ling, where he first met Fred Reed, as a young missionary beginning work in China. He pointed out that Don was a principal organizer of the annual China Club dinners which were reunions for all those who were part of the school and the missionary presence of the church in China.

Don Reed - 1926 - 2009

Talk given by Dr. Fred Holberton to Ogden AOTS 85th Birthday Guests

Sunday, April 13th 2008

What is AOTS? Many of our church members do not know!

The first AOTS dinner took place January 23, 1923 at Kerrisdale Methodist Church (later Ryerson United) in Vancouver. The cost of the meal was 40 cents each.

At that time Dr Herbert Riggs dreamed of a Men's Service club in the church. He was an active member of his Church and an active member of a Kiwanis club where he served in positions as District Governor and International Vice President. It was during a return journey by train from one of these events that he wondered of the possibility of having a Church Service club of men. A consultation with his Minister, Rev. J G Brown, resulted in the choice of the name "As One That Serves". This is a verse of scripture, Luke 22 verse 27 when Jesus said "I am among you as one that serves". Dr Riggs proposed, for instance, that membership should be entirely unrestricted, open to every man in the community regardless of church affiliation. Each member would be expected to belong to and to work on a committee. He apparently indicated that the work of the laity in the church was being ignored by the Church (sounds familiar to today's church) and that AOTS would recruit a strong laity.

Their first meeting had 53 charter members, thus ensuring that the service concept would become a reality. Six clubs were in place in Vancouver churches and on January 21, 1924 issued the first Mission statement:

"Promote United Action" of the clubs in the interest of better citizenship, by practical application of the teachings of JESUS in the life and organization of the community.

At the time of Church Union in 1925 the minutes of that first General Council record "the AOTS plan is proving a most valuable men's organization for Christian work"

1935 - 35 clubs in Vancouver included Japanese United, Scandinavian mission, First Baptist Church and many others.

1939 - All day convention at West Point Grey United Church was followed by a banquet in the evening with 572 in attendance.

1944 - clubs raised \$5,000.00 for promotion of boys work throughout BC.

1945 - clubs paid the salary of Rev Bob McLaren as BC's first youth worker and encouraged and supported the building of a Christian Education Centre in Naramata, BC. Clubs spread rapidly through Ontario and British Columbia.

Fred's first contact with AOTS was in 1950 when Dr. Poole, a the newly appointed staff member in BC, made trips across Canada and visited men at Southminster United Church in Lethbridge, Alberta. Nearly 40 men became charter members when the AOTS club of Central Calgary presented their charter in 1952.

Southminster's first president was a salesman, followed by a medical doctor, and the office manager of T. Eaton Company.

The club became heavily involved in their own church but also had a committee that travelled Southern Alberta promoting AOTS and were called upon to present Charters and install members and officers.

1955 - AOTS clubs in Winnipeg, Brandon, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge successfully sponsored Black Hills Passion play from South Dakota - a presentation that ran in the evenings, plus two matinees through one full week at McKillop United AOTS in Lethbridge. The money generated helped establish the Association of United Church AOTS Clubs become the "Men's Club" committee of the newly formed Board of Men of the United Church whose Secretarial staff (3 in Head office and 2 in the field) began an extensive program to promote AOTS clubs.

1960 - there were 477 registered clubs in every province

1963 - saw an increase to 582 clubs.

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1971- Things changed- the board of men disappeared into the new Division of Mission and this ended Staff in Head Office and in the field. The National Association agreed to continue – This without support or Staff from the national church. Today the national executive is working to rebuild.

1998 - our number had decreased to 78 registered clubs. The General Council decision to end programs of Men, Women, Evangelism and Christian Education resulted in most National and field staff changing positions in the Church.

2008 - The number of registered clubs still paying dues is 60. Many meet regularly once a month at a table of good food, some have breakfast others dinner meetings.

The key to a successful meeting is to start and end on time, to keep business to a minimum and to build in Worship and have an interesting program. Fred told us that he was expected to be the Guest speaker at AOTS club meetings as he travelled the 3 western provinces, also spoke at Roundups and Rallies. He shared the following with us. During a baseball game a dog suddenly appeared on the playing field. After running around a bit it sat down on third base. The crowd loved it and began to yell out “Get off the field”. “Run for home”. “Bite the Umpire.” But the yelling was to no avail. The dog just stayed on third base, confused. In an article the next day, the sports writer said the dog did not move because there was no dominant voice from the crowd to which he could respond.

That story of the dog sitting on third base is a good parable. What is the dominant voice you hear in the arena of life? Do you just sit there on third base not knowing what to do next? In that crush of sound that comes to you from all around, can you discern a word from God or is that word lost in the crescendo of wordy instructions? The very mention of the name of God may bring puzzlement to mind. We sit on third base not knowing where to go. What is the voice most dominant in your life? What is the direction we are waiting for?

A novelist described one of his characters in a sentence “Edith”, he wrote, “was a little country bounded on the north, south, east, and west by Edith.” A man put an advertisement in the newspaper which read “I am 58 years old, would like to marry a young woman of thirty who has a tractor. Please send a picture of the tractor.” You see this man is wrapped up in himself and the voice he hears is his own voice. But there are other sounds. Tune your ears. A student told his teacher “I am not sure if I believe in God”, but then he went on to say, “ but I am confident there is something behind it all”, “Something that’s an affirmation”. “Something behind it all” That’s a relationship on which it all stands. Therefore I am related he said - I am dependent. Something bigger than myself. Perhaps someone which gives it all meaning. Ah, but there is something bigger to know about this parable of the dog sitting on third base, confused. If you were on that base of life, what would you do besides listening for the dominant sounds of the crowds around? If you were on that base of life, you would remember the game and you would know that it is not really the sounds around you that count. What counts is knowing what is going on. What counts, is knowing the drama that unfolds throughout the game of life.

AOTS was being challenged to head for home plate. That did not happen. The General Council decision of 1971 ended that challenge and we as AOTS members are struggling to reach 3rd base.

On third base we remember that God has had a love affair with his people through the ages. That he led his people out of Egypt and into nationhood. That he came in Jesus, hidden in the form of this man from Galilee, and having shown himself, was misunderstood, rejected and was killed. And that he continues his love affair because he loves us so much not to end it. He continues it by revealing to us that death is not a power over God. That death is not a power over us-over you or me.

“Nothing” says the Gospel of Paul, “can separate us. Not principalities, not life, not hunger, not powers from below, not death. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.”

And so if there is anyone reading this who is sitting on third base and is confused not knowing where to go, or what to do; listening to voices that come in a jumble, a roar of conflicting sounds, remember the love affair that God has with you in Christ and your commitment to be ‘As One That Serves’. It is a great thing to try to be a follower of Christ. It doesn’t mean that we are necessarily good men. Christ does not have to wait UNTIL HE HAS GOOD MEN. He can use

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broken men, poor men, inadequate men. The Christian is not one who has reached the goal, but one that has left his old place to start on the journey. Our United Church is not a fellowship of the righteous. The Church is a fellowship of those who know they are not good sinners, but sinners redeemed. However the really amazing thing is that Christ can use poor things like you and me for his glory. Unworthy as we are, Christ calls us to be his servants. AOTS clubs and individual members can and must fulfill our calling to be Servants of Christ. This is what has called us together in this hour.

Let us pray; We are in a game, O God, which you have created. Remind us, O God, how to play it; to respond to what you have taught us, to hear what we know to be true. Remind us, O God, that it is a game of love, your love for us. Amen

Central Region Roundup—Theme Speaker—Rev. Will Kunder—see page 20



Rev. Will Kunder—Raised in southern Ontario. Began teaching career as a high school Guidance Counsellor in Oakville. Went on a one year “adventure” to teach in the Northwest Territories – stayed 17 years. Returned south to attend theological college in Toronto. Ordained by The United Church of Canada.

Served congregations: The Chapel of the Delaware – Six Nations, New Credit United – Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Canfield United, Grace United-Canborough.

Joined the faculty of The Francis Sandy Theological Centre – a United Church of Canada theological college established to prepare First Nation ministers for the UCC – finished 7 years as the Principal before coming to North Bay. April 2004 - became Executive Secretary of Manitou Conference – a regional office of The United Church for north-eastern Ontario and north-western Quebec. Received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Huntington University in 2008.

Married to Brenda. Sons: T.J and Zachary. Granddaughter: Emma. When the ice is off Lake Nipissing, Will lives at his cabin on an island in the West Arm! For fun: canoeing, golf, a good murder mystery – and following the Toronto Blue Jays

To the Men of Canada’s United Church...(as we see it in Newmarket)

Men’s ministry in the United Church of Canada has been quite quiet for many years now. Head office has recognized this and now has a new, paid position focused on this, currently staffed by Reverend Lloyd Paul. Part of this position includes connecting and working with the ‘As One That Serves’ (AOTS) Men’s Clubs across the country.

A nation-wide, million-dollar project has taken shape under the leadership of the Men’s Ministry. Trinity’s AOTS club is part of the picture. The million dollars does indeed have a reason - the ‘**Dondi Project**’. Canadian missionaries started the Lutamo School at Dondi in 1914 and the mission flourished until the growing civil war forced the missionaries to leave in the 1980’s.

The Lutamo School at Dondi is part of a vast Dondi mission station which covers 16 hectares in the Huambo province in central Angola, Africa. Huambo province was the heartland of the rebel militia UNITA, and as the war raged, the soldiers moved into the buildings on the strategic high ground. Bombed repeatedly by government forces, the extensive network of buildings was finally torched by the retreating UNITA forces.

Angola is coming out of 25 years of civil war and, with a new government, is working to ‘rebuild’ itself. The million dollars raised through the work of the men of the United Church is for the rebuilding of a school in Dondi.

So, Newmarket Trinity AOTS men have set a target and would like to encourage all members of our church to support this cause. Two ideas - a donations to the project or the purchase of ‘Gift Cards’ - these are cards for you to purchase, at any price you wish, to share as a gift with a family member, friend or other acquaintance. Some of the gift cards are focused on Christmas, some for the celebration of other events. There is already a demand for these cards, one person buying two of them for \$50.00 each!

Come up with your own idea and with the work of many hands, Dondi will indeed get its school back!

Submitted by Jonathan Wardlaw



BANFF MEN'S CONFERENCE 2009

Approximately 190 men enjoyed the great food and hospitality of the Banff Centre for the 55th Annual United Church Banff Men's Conference. The Conference is the longest continuously running conference at the Banff Centre. The Centre staff went all out to make us feel welcome in spite of the detours due to major construction on campus.

The Conference is a very fulfilling weekend of fellowship, worship, singing, theme addresses and workshops. Each year the Conference is organized by a Planning Committee from one of the 3 western provinces. This year's Planning Committee was from Salmon Arm, B.C.

About 6 weeks before the Conference, the Theme Speaker advised the Committee that he was unable to attend. Rev. Dr. Darryl Auten, co-chair of the Planning Committee, stepped forward and offered his leadership. What a wonderful fill-in he was! Darryl is a potter and he used his potter's wheel as a metaphor for his 3 theme talks: brokenness happens, creativity and the need to trim the excess. He spoke of Jeremiah visiting Harmon in his potter's shop. As he fashioned bowls from lumps of clay he fashioned his theme talks and kept his audience spell-bound. We were each given the opportunity to expose our own creativity by making a thumb bowl or other small clay pot.

The music team was Gord Oaks and Chris Giffen, members of rEvolvE, a musical collective committed to bringing groove and revolutionary music into the church. Their music was upbeat and contemporary, while honouring the traditions of the Conference. By Sunday morning every man was singing, clapping and swaying to the music.

Allowing 2 time slots for workshops made for tough choices from the 10 excellent workshops offered, including: Men's Voices in the Movies, Greening Sacred Spaces, Truth and Reconciliation with our Aboriginal population, the 21st Century Man, The Church of 80% Sincerity and Restorative Justice. Closer to AOTS, Lloyd Paul and *The Abbey North Drummers* put on a workshop and introduced the Dondi Project to the men, which was well received.

Next year's Conference is October 15 – 17, 2010 at the Banff Centre. The Theme is "To Seek Justice and Resist Evil. Making a Straight Path for the Lord." The Theme Speaker will be Brigadier General Peter Holt (Retired), who has strived for 39 years in the Canadian Armed Forces to be a soldier of Christ as well as a soldier of the military.

Many of us were so charged up by the weekend that we immediately registered for next year's Conference. For information or to register, go to www.banffmen.org or contact the 2010 registrar, Richard Roy at 780-830-7800 or Beanroy@telus.net. Please come and join us!

Respectfully submitted by *Allen Goudie*, a past president of the United Church Banff Men's Society and an individual member of AOTS.

ATTENTION ALL AOTS CLUBS Re: " David Sherwood Memorial Trophy"

The National Fellowship and Membership committee requires input from **ALL** clubs on an annual basis to keep this trophy in circulation and clubs informed and up to date.

At the 2009 Biennial Convention in April the "David Sherwood Memorial Trophy" could not be awarded for lack of information received from clubs as to their growth over the past 2 years.

Each year it is important that we receive information from all clubs giving the status of membership, such as the number of members (increase or decrease), also giving information for the "Kids to Camp" program.

Some clubs appear not to report as they believe the number of youth sponsored to camp is too low to be in the running for a trophy. In order to tell how effective the program is, it is necessary to have all numbers included even though it may be only one.

Respectfully Submitted by *Al Anthony* email a.i.anthony@sympatico.ca

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“Anhelo”



There is a wonderful resource called “Feasting On the Word” offered for those preaching the revised common lectionary. For each of the four weekly texts there is a theological, pastoral, exegetical and homiletical perspective given.

Sermon seeds.

For the first Sunday of Advent the writers remind us that this is the beginning of a new year for those of us in the church. We may have just counted down for the new year and turned our calendars to 2010, but for the Christian community the new year begins with Advent.

One of the Advent themes and one of the new year realities for the Christian community is “longing”. In Spanish the word is “anhelo”.

Longing – Anhelo.....

There are longings expressed in “The Dondi Project” –

- a longing for men in our churches and communities to come together in meaningful community and use our time, talents, and dollars in ways that deepen our Christian discipleship;
- a longing to deepen our partnership with our sisters and brothers in Christ with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola;
- a longing to drum our way to renewed hope and strength;
- a longing to hear and celebrate the stories of our missionaries who have served in Angola;
- a longing to learn about the sins of empire and God’s call for “mishpat – justice”;
- a longing to play a small role in bending the world towards God’s shalom – for “The Dondi Project” this means rebuilding the Lutamo School, part of the Dondi mission.

What are some of your longings as we move into this New Year?

For more information see our website: www.dondiproject.com

or call Lloyd Paul, 1-800- 68-3781 ext. 4046.



*The Lutamo School,
part of the
Dondi Mission,
after the Civil War*

Angola



Dondi in Manitoba



Two members of the *Abbey North Drummers* visited Brandon & Winnipeg, MB on October 23 to 26, 2009.

After a hectic three weeks of drumming and promoting the Dondi Project in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Bazza Hayward and Chris Cullen arrived in Brandon.

While in Brandon, they put in a busy day by taping a TV appearance for WCG-TV, which will be aired on the local channel several times over the next six months. Following an evening performance at the Central United Church, they drove to Winnipeg, arriving well after 1:00 am, Bazza and Chris soon greeted the break of dawn for a Men's Breakfast at Sturgeon Creek United Church.

The breakfast was a good opportunity to inform the men from this congregation of the background and development of the Dondi Project, a plan to raise a million dollars to rebuild the school established in 1914.

The Drummers then supported Sunday morning worship, playing for the hymn of supplication with the choir and congregation, and looking forward to the Musical Surprise at the centre of the worship service - even after finding out the surprise was the Abbey North Drummers!

Sunday evening saw the drummers return to the church for an evening fundraising concert. In spite of some people wondering how two drummers would produce a worthy evening of entertainment, Bazza and Chris brought out from their trailer of treasures a significant number of instruments, drums of all types, shakers, tambourines, sticks, gourds, various percussion instruments, and spread them across the stage.

Nearly 60 people filled the centre rows of the sanctuary, and watched the video that the Men's Ministries Network, Abbey North Drummers and the United Church Social Justice wing created, from a trip to the Dondi Mission in Angola Africa. After a short description of the work of the Dondi Project, the involvement of the AOTS and Men's Ministries Network and where the Abbey North Drummers fit into the picture, everyone in the audience was invited to come forward and pick one of the instruments, and take a place on stage. Bazza began to mix his magic of enthusiasm, encouragement and eager leadership, enticing out of the audience a stunning performance, for which no one had any practice or even awareness that they would be performing!

A free will offering was taken in a way that was consistent with what was experienced in Angola, everyone was asked to come forward and with their offering scrunched in one hand, walk past a canvas bucket, reach in and drop the contents of their hand, whether it was money, an envelope or even an empty hand (acknowledging that even their presence at the drumming event was a gift in itself).

With some 60 people attending, the group raised a total of 752 dollars with a number of people agreeing to take home literature and make donations directly to the United Church over the next few days.

There was a strong contingent of AOTS men from the various clubs in Winnipeg, many of whom expressed strong interest in future performances when the group would be able to return to Winnipeg. Plans started forming for a spring tour, with the contacts taking advantage of the AOTS plan, the power of ten.

Monday morning the group again greeted early morning to attend the Military Family Resource Centre Daycare and perform with some 50 children aged 2 to 5. The hour long concert was a welcome diversion for the staff and students at the facility and again a donation was made to the Dondi Project.

With all cash and cheques donations nearing \$1,250, the "seeding tour" of Manitoba, by the Abbey North Drummers was a great success, suggesting there will be a strong future for this project.

Submitted by *Doug Harvey*, Western Vice President



A Western Trip in support of the Dondi Project

Monday morning Bazza Hayward and I met in Haliburton, Ontario at Abbey North to load a trailer full of drums and other sound makers, jump in the Pathfinder and head out on a Western adventure. The fall colours were beautiful as we drove toward Parry Sound.

Alternating driving, we pulled in for supper at Sault Ste. Marie and made the decision that we would push on in the dark to get to Wawa. Gassing up in the Sault, a trucker warned us to watch out for moose as two were hanging around the road near Pancake Bay. With fall hunting on, the moose were on the move. I drove a cautious 80 km/hour constantly reminded of the danger by flashing signs. We made it to Wawa at 11:30, exhausted. After getting a picture of the Canadian Goose at Wawa Tuesday morning, we headed out for our destination of Dryden. We stopped in Marathon and had a visit with our past moderator, David Guiliano.

Woke up to cool weather on Wednesday in Dryden. Our destination for tonight was Regina. On the drive through the prairies most of the crops had been harvested and the fields looked beautiful. By the time we reached Regina the weather had gotten much colder and we saw our first snow of the trip – on October 7th! Snow angels were suggested, but neither Bazza nor I felt moved to make one!

The drive Thursday from Regina to Calgary involved very cold winds and some snow. We saw a cold badger running across an open field. Driving was tricky in a few places. In Calgary we met up with Joe Truss and Christine Cullen, the other members of the Abbey North Drummers.

Friday was set up day at McDougall United Church in Calgary for our first gathering with men to promote “The Dondi Project”. We were welcomed by Wally Shoults and Bill Love, two active members of the men’s group at McDougall. Wally wasn’t wearing shorts!

On Saturday, 45 men gathered for breakfast, watched the 22 minute Dondi DVD and had a drumming circle. That evening we had a concert at McDougall with lots of fun and energy.

Sunday morning, the Abbey North Drummers played during worship. It was a great opportunity to get to know the people of McDougall United Church.

We were invited to gather at the home of Bill Phipps and Carolyn Pogue for Thanksgiving dinner. We all went for a walk along the Bow River and then enjoyed a meal and fellowship together. I even got to sit beside a clown!

Monday and Tuesday we spent time in Red Deer and had a drum circle at Sunnybrook United Church. Wednesday we drove up to Edmonton and shared some time with the Rev. Tom Gilchrist, whose parents were missionaries in Angola and who had lived some of his growing up years in Dondi. We showed him the DVD and he was visibly moved and enjoyed singing some of the Umbundu songs.

Thursday and Friday we drove through the Rockies taking the route through Jasper to Banff. On the weekend we participated in the annual Banff United Church Men’s Conference. We led two workshops on “The Dondi Project” and had two lively drum circles. Many connections were made and people invited us to come to their community next Spring to share the Dondi story and drum together.

From Banff we went on to do an event with the congregation of Gibbons United Church near Edmonton, followed by an event in Saskatoon. In Manitoba we were hosted by Harvey Douglas for an event in Brandon and hosted by Harvey’s son James, for an event in Winnipeg.

Returning home to Ontario, we appreciated the Western hospitality: the generosity of our billets, the willingness of men to drum together and the many connections that were made and seeds sown.

The AOTS men were great supporters of the project on our Western trip. Thanks!!

“The Dondi Project” has come to life in the West. We look forward to many more opportunities to share the good news of “The Dondi Project” with men in communities across Canada. Check out our website or call me to find out when we are coming to your area. www.dondiproject.com or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4046

Blessings

Lloyd Paul

Men’s Ministries

The United Church of Canada

AOTS Hospital Donation



On November 18, 2009, Ed Macdonald, AOTS Central Vice President made the presentation of the AOTS hospital donation to the Sudbury Regional Hospital Foundation. The donation of \$2,000.00 was designated for the service of Ophthalmologist department.

(Left to Right) Dr. Stephen E. Kosar (dept head), Edwin Macdonald (Central Vice President AOTS), Joe Drago (President of the Sudbury Hospital Foundation)



Mark Curlew 1919-2009

Mark Curlew was born in Northern Arm on January 6, 1919 and passed peacefully away at the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre on March 31, 2009.

Mark was employed with the Department of Highways until his retirement in 1984. He was an active soldier of The Salvation Army serving as an usher as well as being a member of the Men's Fellowship, 60 plus fellowship, Community Care Ministry (LOM). Apart from that he was also a member of the Trinity United Church AOTS in Botwood, Newfoundland, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 5, Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, served as Past Master of LOA 203, Past Perceptor R.B.P. 1225, chaplain, Deputy LOA as well as other offices in the Lodge.



50 years of AOTS at Grace United Church in Springdale, Newfoundland



Grace United AOTS celebrated 50 years in a grand fashion last May. Past National President Ernie Paddock presented the club with a "Certificate of Appreciation" from National President Bill Love to round off the evening's events.

Editor's Note: The "words" for the "occasion" didn't arrive along with the pictures, but it seemed a shame to not print the pictures for this special event.

AOTS in Oak Bay United Church, BC



This past June, the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society provided the venue for the annual outing of the AOTS club of Oak Bay United Church. As one of the club's ten meetings a year, some two dozen members and their wives revisited the past at the Society's old barn museum and collection of historic buildings. Its park-like setting is located in the municipality of Central Saanich, some ten miles north of Victoria and is run by volunteers. On special occasions a tiny train takes visitors around the site, but this time an open bus was the means of transport. Beside examining artifacts from vintage cars to venerable

food cans and cartons, members enjoyed a conducted tour of a working blacksmith's forge and an old schoolhouse in which a portrait of Lord Kitchener surveyed its antique desks and teaching aids. There is also an old church on site which can be booked for special services such as weddings. With minds replete with these glimpses of the past, the group then drove to the Cordova Bay Golf Club Restaurant to replete their energy with a-by-then necessary lunch. At lunch Bruce Martin and Gordon Johnson led the diners in the singing of the AOTS grace.

National Secretary Wally MacDonald Retires



After serving as national secretary of AOTS for the past couple of years, Wally Macdonald has decided to retire from the position.

Born in New Brunswick, Wally graduated from UNB with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was initially employed in the structural steel industry in Windsor, Ontario dealing with the fabrication and construction of steel buildings, towers and bridges.

A career change in 1976 prompted him to move with his family (wife Irene, son Rob, and daughter Sue), to Oakville, where he worked for an employer engaged in the administration of CSA Welding Standards, in accordance with the requirements of the Canadian National Building Code.

It was there that Wally was introduced to AOTS at a "meet and greet" evening for new members at St. Paul's United Church, in Oakville. He has been a member of the

executive since that time. Currently, he is the treasurer of the club.

Wally has always enjoyed regional and national AOTS events. He describes them as "great spiritual uplifting times, where we meet men of other clubs, participate in discussion forums and renew friendships."

Wally is grateful for the experience the National Secretary position has provided him. He extends his "sincere thanks for all the help" he received and wishes the organization the best that "with God's Grace, our organization will continue to be *"As One That Serves"*.

Wally will continue to be active in AOTS but will find a little more time for his other volunteer work, doing some camping, travelling and being spoiled by his son and daughter. Irene passed away in 2003.

But there is one thing that Wally is particularly looking forward to doing and that is polishing his 25 Durant Star. The "Star" it seems was a product of William (Billy) Durant (of Flint and Detroit, MI) who was involved in several auto companies. In 1908, Durant was able to take a number of auto companies that existed at that time, and group them under the name General Motors. Durant launched his own company (Durant Motors) in 1921, and manufactured autos until 1933 - Durant, Star, Rugby, Flint, De Vaux, and Locomobile and Mason Trucks, are all part of the Durant family. **Thank you, Wally**

NORTHMINSTER AOTS MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The Northminster AOTS Men's Club, in Oshawa, Ontario continue to meet for breakfast and fellowship the second Sunday of each month (except June, July and August). 2009 began with a number of Northminster related activities. AOTS hosted a Lasagna Lunch, following the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 1st.

At the February AOTS breakfast, Debbie Steel, a member of the Northminster Family, spoke to the group on behalf of *World Vision*. Later in February, the Men's Club celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper, that was well supported by the congregation and community.

At the March breakfast, the wives of the AOTS men were invited, along with others from the congregation, to hear Doug and Suzanne Monteit (former members of Northminster) present an interesting account of their experiences with "Serving in Mission" in Zambia, Africa, in July, 2008. On Outreach Sunday, March 29th, Northminster AOTS provided a soup and sandwich lunch, with the proceeds going toward to the *Canadian Food Grains Bank*.



On Easter Sunday, April 12, Northminster AOTS hosted those who worshipped at the annual Sunrise Service. This is a tradition with the club and we usually have a good turnout and a wonderful time of fellowship together.

Through fundraising events (as previously mentioned), Northminster AOTS is able to financially support projects within our church and abroad. Recently, the club continued the annual support of the South African Township Project, a donation was given to George Street United Church AOTS, Peterborough in recognition of 50 years of AOTS in their church, which they were able to use for their defibrillator project. Recent support was also given to the roof project at Northminster. Again, in 2009, Northminster AOTS has financially assisted youth to attend Camp Quin-Mo-Lac this past summer.



Northminster (Oshawa) AOTS Men's Club

WES SAUNDERS (1943-2009), a founding member of Northminster United Church AOTS Men's Club, passed away after a short, courageous battle with cancer on Wednesday, October 14th, 2009. Wes was a profoundly Christian gentleman, who enlivened the lives of all who met him. His cheery greetings and active involvement at Northminster are sorely missed. Wes leaves his wife Sandy, a son Sean, daughter Sara Bain and her husband Ken.



Bishop's Falls AOTS Men's Club, Newfoundland

For the past four years Roy was an active member of the Bishop Falls AOTS. He attended meetings regularly, helped out with the cooking and fund raising projects. He was involved in planning and running the Loon Bay Camp Retreat in 2008 (sponsored by Bishop's Falls).

Roy was Chaplain of the AOTS in Bishop's Falls for 2009.

ROY ALWYN PILGRIM—June 2, 1939—March 11, 2009

Windsor Park United Church AOTS 85th Anniversary Celebrations – September 2008

The Anniversary Celebration program ran from 1 pm to 8 pm, with four excellent speakers, both before and after dinner. Our National President was in attendance and spoke to the group. The following is the devotional by Rev. Fraser Muldrew.

It is a pleasure to celebrate with you the 85th Anniversary of AOTS in Canada. With age and decreasing brain power I seldom try to lead in Worship or preach any more, but for this occasion I wanted to try again. The AOTS Manitoba District Council, has helped me keep focused and so I have volunteered to speak to you today. The reason that I feel comfortable speaking to you is that we have a fellowship of service that goes back a long way; at least 60 years in the history of our group and in the experience of some of you, like Ernie Orpin and Harry Burdon; eighty-five years in the history of AOTS in Canada. As One That Serves is our name and our motto. It binds us together in our leader Jesus Christ, who said these words, "I am among you as one that serves." It gives us a rich fellowship because we are one with Jesus. We take his words as our badge, as our name, and wear it proudly, "As One That Serves". Secondly, we have a fellowship of service that gives us a strong bond of loyalty, of love, of commitment to action, for our church, for our leader, and for one another.

One of our number, Murray Kerr, who died this past year, was praised at his funeral by his minister Robert Campbell for the "fellowship of service" that he experienced in his long life of Christian Service in his church and in the AOTS organization. It struck me, with some force, that that was the thing that gave our organization, particularly the Manitoba District Council of AOTS, such strength and power. We were in a fellowship of service of active Christian work and worship that has given our lives meaning and purpose and fulfillment. We are blessed through the fellowship. It is a fellowship of service, of action, of good works, and because it was in Christ or with Christ "as one that serves", it is very strong, sweet and wonderful. We will examine today some of the ways that "fellowship of service" worked itself out in our history of eighty-five years and, in the experience of some of our members, over the last 60 years. It is my purpose to say this is the essence of AOTS, this is the joy and foundation of our AOTS group.

"I am among you as one that serves". Jesus is among us, 2000 years after his ministry, just as he was among his followers and among the humble people of Galilee who followed him. He has that quality of abiding in us through faith, through his words and example. He lived out what he taught, and he wants us to do the same. He wants us to take his teachings, like the Beatitudes and the parables, and his manner of life, and live by them. We take his words, "I am among you as one that serves", and we can live by them by believing that Christ is with us. Christ is with his followers in this and every age, and continues to live through us. So he lives through the service that we do in his name and by his gracious spirit, and it is a rich fellowship if we do it faithfully and humbly. Not proudly, as the Pharisees, but prayerfully, asking Christ to be with us and to lead us in our journey. We do it as ordinary people who make mistakes, but we have an extraordinary partner to show the way, to inspire and encourage us.

In the District Council, which I have been a part of for about twelve years, we have a rotating system of those who lead in worship. It is not always great or original stuff in our meditations, but it is always sincere, honest, something meaningful to us and usually centered in the Gospel, or some important passage of the Old Testament. This simple act has been very meaningful to me because we express our faith to each other, the faith that has been given to us by our leader Jesus Christ. Each of our members has taken his turn. No one, that I can recall, has been left out, and that speaks to the strength and confidence that we have in Christ. We are grounded in Christ.

Then there is the wide range of service, from transporting patients to the Chapel Service each Sunday morning at the Municipal Hospital for the past 55 years, to our concerts to raise money for Youth Music Bursaries, to service with the National Executive, as President or Treasurer or Church and Community Service Chairman or regional representative for Manitoba. All have been done in the name of Jesus, and in service to him and his church. Feeding people at Presbytery to make money to send out materials from Manitoba AVEL Library (C.E. and Audio Visual Resources) all over Manitoba and North Western Ontario *free* of shipping charges, giving money for eye operations in India, Children's relief, education (a Food and Agricultural Scholarship), for Youth Camps and Hospital Services and Equipment for Isolated Communities. Hundreds of dollars has been given each year for these projects, and for a long period of time.

This service has given us our strength, and we have found a rich fellowship in it, and so I celebrate today, with you, 85 years of service in AOTS, given in devotion to our leader Jesus Christ, and I share with a thankful heart having been a part of it and to express this, our great fellowship of service, that we have in AOTS.

Presentation of the DR Pool Memorial Trophy to the Minnedosa United Church AOTS Men



Harvey presents trophy to President Alf Iverson.



L to R - Elgin Hall, Keith Robertson, Herman Klassen, Ron Petch, Don Jones, Neil Cameron, President Alf Iverson, Keith Wallace, Bob Fehr, Harvey Douglas - missing from the picture is Clayton Searle (charter member), Bob Bertram, Bill Campbell and Ron Hladun

On a beautiful Wednesday afternoon, June 3, 2009, Harvey Douglas, Western V.P., on behalf of the National AOTS Executive, presented the D. R.. Pool Memorial Trophy to the Minnedosa United Church Men's Club. This trophy is presented every two years at the National Biennial Conference to the most deserving AOTS club from across Canada who has supported and helped the "Kids to Camp Program". The Minnedosa men have been very faithful in supporting the United Church Spirit Lake Camp program over the past 20 years with donations for all kinds of items and camper donations.

The presentation was made at the annual June windup meeting of the club, which always includes the wives of the members and spouses of deceased members. Nine of the members were present to receive the trophy, four other members were absent. Harvey thanked the members for their continued support of the Youth Programs of AOTS and wished them well in the future.

It is worth mentioning that this club is nearing its 50th anniversary. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Harvey Douglas, Western Vice President

Harry Colnett Scholarship recipient 2009



Audrey Yank—I was born in a small town named Buckingham in the southwest of Quebec in 1987 and I am the eldest of a family of three kids. Before I started university in 2007, I participated in an international cooperation project related to environmental problems and to local farming with the program *Quebec Sans Frontieres*. I spent three months in Niger where I had the chance to live with a local family. The project was focusing on the remediation of problems caused by the invasion of a non-native plant. The initiative was to remove, harvest and compost the plant. I have now completed two years out of four in the undergraduate program *Bioresource Engineering* in the Faculty of Environmental and Agricultural Sciences at McGill University. As a future engineer, I would like to work in the environmental and agricultural area.

This summer I will be working in Benin, with some teachers from my department, on a project that will seek to improve the processing of rice for securing food in West Africa. As a student volunteer in this project, I will work on the analysis and the improvement of the energy used during the parboiling process for rice and I will promote sustainable energy-efficient technologies to local people, such as the use of rice husk biomass.

This scholarship has been funded in past strictly from a bequest by Harry Colnett. Starting in 2010 the amount will be raised from \$1000 to \$ 1500. If there are sufficient donations received for the fund, there can be an additional scholarship offered. Support for young students like Audrey is a valuable effort so this fund offers a good home for future donations.

Thought for today.....

Based on material from “The Shack” by William P. Young and “The Intellectual Devotional” by David S. Kidder and Noah P. Oppenheim

A Compassionate God in the Face of Evil

*“I took another walk around the neighbourhood and realized that on this earth as it is –
the race is not always to the swift,
nor the battle to the strong,
nor satisfaction to the wise,
nor riches to the smart,
nor grace to the learned.
Sooner or later bad luck hits us all.
No one can predict misfortune.
Like fish caught in a cruel net or birds in a trap,
so men are caught
by accidents evil and sudden.
Ecclesiastes 9:11-13 (The Message)*

In his novel, “The Shack”, William Young writes a story of evil and redemption. An innocent child is kidnapped and cannot be found. Eventually the body of the child is found, horribly mutilated. How could God let this happen?

Consider the following four claims:

- God is all powerful (Anything possible is within his power)
- God is all knowing
- God is perfectly good
- There is evil in the world

People who believe in God have accepted these four claims, but many philosophers have argued that they are incompatible. If God is all powerful, he could have made a world without evil. And since a world without evil is better than a world with evil, how could a perfectly benevolent God knowingly create a world in which there is evil?

One solution is to deny that God bears responsibility for the evil in the world. Supporters of this view argue God created the world, but mankind created the evil. Mankind has free will, and the only way God could have prevented evil is by not giving us free will. But, the argument goes, a world in which we do not have free will would be even worse than the actual world. Therefore, God made the best possible choice. He created mankind with free will, which led to there being evil. Of course the theory does not resolve the problem of natural evil – hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis that cause death and suffering. God could have created a natural world with fewer disasters that kill innocent people. So why didn't he?

Continued on page 16

It's very popular in our culture to affirm our faith in the human spirit; that is, everyone has wonderful potential and is good at heart. "The Shack" portrays people and the world as being a mess. The main character in "The Shack" is most upset with God because the world is in such a mess and God doesn't seem to have done enough to fix it.

Some of us think that if a child dies, or has a horrible accident, or is killed, it is God's will, planned and perfectly executed. Some of us believe that whatever happens is planned and caused by God for a greater good. Some of us don't. A minister whose son had died after much pain and suffering was heard to say at his son's grave, "I will never tell another parent whose child has died, "It was God's will"."

The last step for the main character in "The Shack" is God's restoration project. This is most difficult for that character and for most of us. Not only must we trust God, we must also forgive others, including those who have hurt us the most. God tells that character that forgiving is not forgetting, nor is it excusing. It doesn't mean abandoning justice, but that justice is left up to God.

Some people have appreciated "The Shack" so much that they take it to be as reliable as God's Word. Why is it important to remember that it is about God's Word and not God's Word itself?

You may want to read it yourself to find out.

Let us pray – O God, help us to hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
For He who promised is faithful.
And let us consider how we may spur one another on
toward love and good deeds.
Let us not give up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Amen.

George Bishop – Spiritual Life and Leadership Chair



Greetings from the Hope Charge in the Bay of Quite Presbytery

Hope Charge AOTS is still going strong with about eleven active members. We had a very good pancake supper with the youth helping “flip pancakes” and serving guests.

The “Spring Plant & Yard Sale” was very successful. Plants from our President John are always big sellers.

We are paying half the cost for five youth to go to camp Quin-Mo-Lac.

June was “Ladies Night”, when we take the ladies out to supper.

We helped at the first “Outdoor Service” of the summer, July 5th and are making coffee for all the summer months.

Our “start up” in the fall was held at a members home with a corn roast. Our meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month.
Submitted by *Allin Osborne*

Minnedosa United Church AOTS Men's Club - fall report.



The men of Minnedosa started their year off with a barbeque supper at Elgin Hall's cottage. Fifteen men made the 30 mile jaunt to enjoy a lovely evening at the cottage, to kick off the 2009/10 season. After a very enjoyable meal, the regular devotional and business meeting took place. Several activities were discussed with plans being finalized to hold a Fall Supper and a Pancake Supper to raise funds for this year's projects and youth work donations. A special project to furnish the quiet room for the new church was discussed and will be worked on when the new building is finished. As can be seen in the picture the church building is well under construction. This picture was taken Oct. 7, 2009 showing the Cenotaph and the new building. God willing and the construction crews keep working, the congregation can expect to be worshipping in the new building by spring and our group can resume using

our own home. Many thanks go out to the St Alphonse Catholic Church for allowing us to use their Church for our activities for almost three years.

Harvey Douglas

Western Canada Vice President's report.

The life and work of the AOTS Men's clubs in Western Canada doesn't seem to have changed this past year. Each active club seems to have continued in their own way to survive. Thank you to the leaders of these clubs, may God bless you for your never ending support of the AOTS program.

Some of you will have attended the Banff Men's Conference and enjoyed the fellowship and spiritual growth that it offers. I am sorry to say that I did not attend this year, but rather chose to stay in Manitoba and prepare for the Oct.23rd Abbey North Drummers and the Dondi Project fund raiser that was being organized for Central United Church, Brandon, MB. As this is being written on Oct. 8, I cannot report on the outcome, but I am praying for a successful project, God willing.

After a lot of consideration the National Executive have donated \$2,000 to each region from the *Hospital Fund*. The Western Region asked that the funds be given to M&S, with specific instructions to use this money to support the work of the hospital at Bella Bella, British Columbia and the other three remote hospitals that AOTS hospital funds were originally intended for.

We wish all well, May God Bless each and every one of us as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

Happy New Year from *Harvey Douglas*.

The “Joys” of teaching Sunday School

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, “We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a “Higher Power”. Can anybody tell me what it is? One child blurted out, “*aces!*”

A Sunday School teacher asked, “Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?”

“No”, replied Johnny. “*How could he, with only two worms.*”

A Sunday School teacher was telling the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, “If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?”

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, “*I think I'd throw up.*”



Bay of Quinte AOTS men at Camp Quin-Mo-Lac



Christian camping plays a very important part in the development of a young person's life, giving them the opportunity to participate and share with others away from their home community.

Young people who take on a counselor role learn how to be responsible leaders and make lifelong friendships within a Christian setting.

This is an opportunity for A.O.T.S. to show all levels of youth that we care. By supporting "Kids to Camp" financially, children are able to enjoy the experience of camp that otherwise may slip by unnoticed.

Pictured is a group of twenty-seven A.O.T.S. men that became physically involved in

the operation of Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, located on the south shore of Moira Lake in the Bay of Quinte Conference. A total of 70 volunteers enjoyed a day of work and fellowship in early May and were instrumental in getting camp ready for the busy season ahead.

Over 1,100 children and 80 youth leaders experience Christian camping at Quin-Mo-Lac each summer. The camp is most appreciative of the support it receives from the Christian community. The UCW and AOTS are two groups that continue to support the camp on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted by **Al Anthony** Chair of Membership/Fellowship

Northminster United Church, Oshawa, Ontario, welcomes National President, Jim McKibbin



Northminster AOTS Men's Club have invited National AOTS President, Jim McKibbin, to speak to their congregation on AOTS Sunday April 25, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. A cordial welcome is extended to one and all to join with us and hear Jim's message. The address of Northminster United Church is: 676 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, Ontario. If you require further information, please contact Morley Davidson (905-579-7281) or email alwaysfit@rogers.com

L to R: Morley Davidson, Club President, Jim McKibbin, National AOTS President, Doug Palmer, Club Vice President

AOTS PLAQUES

I originally made up a couple plaques to give to a couple of our past presidents in recognition of their serving the club. The club recently asked me to make up a few more for future past presidents. I was very pleased to do this and have included a picture of my latest effort. I think this is a great way to show our appreciation to these people and some of you wood workers out there might want to do the same.

You will notice some different finishes on the plaques and for the colour, I just used black and red markers. I did fill one set of cut outs with clear epoxy but I don't think this is necessary. For my final finish I put on 3 coats of Min-Wax fast dry polyurethane clear gloss spray. Yours in Faith



Harley Jackson PH 1-519-842-8519 or E-mail harleyj@rogers.com

To start with, our club has been busy. At our September meeting it was mentioned that the "Freshie Company" had made a donation towards the project "Let Them Be Kids"; Our city was chosen for 3 playgrounds . The city of Elliott Lake donated to the cause and all service clubs where asked to participate. Our club donated \$800.00 toward new, safe playground equipment for kids to enjoy. We all were asked if we could help on September 26 to install the equipment and many clubs did attend to help set things up. More money than was needed was raised for this project, so the extra will be used next year to work on another playground for the kids to enjoy.

Our new executive: Dwight Smith, President; Bill Laking, Vice President; Ken Lane, Treasurer; Richard Paul Deitriche, Secretary.

Manitou and Hamilton Conferences are in charge of "Round up 2010". Unfortunately I will be unable to attend. My health does not allow me to travel that distance, but you all are in my prayers.

Submitted by **Richard Paul Deitriche**, Club Secretary

Up On The Roof

Up on the roof I heard a sound
Of little hoofs settling down
Oh could it be the sound I hear
Of Santa and his Reindeer
Up on the roof I heard a sound
It's Christmas eve all around
To settle down and try to sleep
Or will I end up counting sheep
'Til I finally yes go off to sleep
This is the time of year you know
For Santa to make his visits known
For little children all around
Up on the roof I heard a sound
Of little hoofs settling down
And a Merry Christmas all around

A Merry Christmas to one and all, God Bless

Richard

Bay of Quinte Conference AOTS Fall Rally

On Saturday October 24, 2009 sixty members and guests gathered at Grace United Ministries in Napanee for the Bay of Quinte Conference AOTS Fall Rally. Rev. Frank Hamper opened the gathering with words of welcome. Northminster United supplied us with two "Sergeant at Arms". Proceeds from the fine box going to the Dondi project. After dinner we had collected \$114.70, but by motion this was topped off at \$1,000.00. This was followed by a number of business items, one of which was the installation of Doug Carter of Grace United in Trenton as Secretary/Treasurer. Garnet Thompson introduced National President Jim McKibbin as our guest speaker, his title for his presentation was "A View from the Wider Church", which was well received by all in attendance.

After this we retired to the lower hall for an excellent dinner served by the UCW. Upon returning to the sanctuary Jim and John Patterson made a power point presentation on the Dondi project. Benediction was given by Rev. Frank Hamper and we all headed safely home. The 2010 Fall Rally will be held at Eastminster United in Belleville on Saturday October 30, 2010.

Yours in AOTS, **Jim Waterfall**, President Bay of Quinte Conference AOTS.

Jokes that can be told in church

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the colour of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment and then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible Class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress.

She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late....But please don't shove me either!"

Three boy are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50".

The second boy says, "That's nothing, my dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song. They give him \$100".

The third boy says, "I've got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper: he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Two boys are walking home from church after hearing a strong sermon on the devil.

One said to the other, "What do you think about all this 'Satan' stuff?"

The other boy replied, "well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad!"

PLAN NOW
TO ATTEND
2010

CENTRAL REGION
ROUNDUP

At the Salvation Army Conference Centre at
Jackson's Point, Ontario

April 16 - 18, 2010

Registration form available early January 2010

Theme Speaker - Rev. Will Kunder, Executive
Secretary of Manitou Conference - a regional
office of The United Church for north-eastern
Ontario and north-western Quebec. (see Bio. On page 5)



Music by Jim Watson and Ken Little

Stimulating Workshops, Good Food, Great Fellowship

Hosted by Hamilton and Manitou Conference AOTS Men