

THE HANDSHAKE



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



The President Reports - National General Meeting and Central Canada Spring Roundup, April 2010

The Central Canada Roundup 2010 events were preceded by two days of meetings of the National Council and Dondi Steering Committee.

The national meeting focused on changes to the AOTS constitution and bylaws and those of us on the council were greatly appreciative of the work carried out by the Constitution Committee, they lead us through a model of a different understanding of governance for our organization – one which fits with our times and circumstances. John Cooke and Howard Wills carried out these responsibilities and while Howard was not able to attend the Roundup; John provided exemplary leadership in answering all the questions, leading to a successful conclusion.

Next there will be an educational initiative to inform membership of the changes and seek support for the new proposed constitution which will hopefully be adopted at the next 2012 Biennial Convention. The proposal involves making the “Executive” the decision making body and reducing the size of that body from 25 to 11 members.

The Dondi Steering Committee meetings heard all about the success of the drumming tour to date as well as the upcoming Western Canada and Newfoundland tour schedules with over 50 dates across Canada already in place. In addition, there is an upcoming “Drumathon” scheduled for October 1st and 2nd, 2010. Chris Cullen, Lloyd Paul, Jim Patterson and John Patterson provided some great insight into the tour and the extensive planning which has taken place.

This year’s Central Region Roundup was very successfully organized by Manitou Conference AOTS clubs at the Salvation Army Conference Centre, Jackson’s Point, ON.

The Abbey North Drummers with Bazza Hayward, Joe Truss and Chris Cullen engaged us all in a very successful drumming circle to kick off the Spring Roundup weekend.

Rev. Lloyd Paul made a Dondi presentation for the Roundup assembly, inspiring us all with this campaign.

Roundup theme speaker Will Kunder, Executive Secretary of Manitou Conference, made two excellent theme presentations with a strong focus on the environment.

Continued on page 3



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Pg. 2 - Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Conference 2010
- Pg. 3 - Northminster United Oshawa, Ontario
- Pg. 4 - Minnedosa United AOTS Minnedosa, Manitoba
- Pg. 5 - Grace United AOTS Trenton, Ontario
- Pg. 6 & 7 - Thought for today... George Bishop
- Pg. 8 - Wetaskiwin, Alberta - Camp Quin-Mo-Lac Bay of Quinte
- Pg. 9 - Abbey North Drummers in Brandon, Manitoba
- Pg. 10 to 12 - Men's Ministries Network - Rev. L. Paul
- Pg. 13 - Duncan United AOTS Duncan, British Columbia
- Pg. 14 - Visualizing the Future Workshop by Jim McKibbin
- Pg. 15 - St. Paul's United AOTS Oakville, Ontario
- Pg. 16 - Photo gallery from 2010 Annual National Meeting & Central Canada Roundup



Take a Photo and send it to the Handshake

Last minute news from Manitoba

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 editing.

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

Email addresses: handshake2007@sympatico.ca

Address: **Harold Lorenz**
708 - 40 William Roe Blvd.
Newmarket, ON L3Y 5N4

*** Executive Members**

- *Honorary President` Harry Wolfrain
- *Past President Bill Love
- *President Jim McKibbin
- *President Elect David Morris
- *Western Vice President Harvey Douglas
- *Central Vice President Edwin Macdonald
- *Eastern Vice President Gary Ross
- *Treasurer & Finance Marvin Bildfell
- *Recording Secretary Jim Upright
- Church & Community Service Garnet Thompson
- Fellowship, Membership,
- Communication & Promotion Al Anthony
- Finance Robert Lewis
- Spiritual Life & Leadership George Bishop
- Constitution & Bylaws Howard Wills
- Archivist Harry Wolfrain
- Handshake Editor Harold Lorenz
- Web Master Mark Browning
- Members at large Ken Lane, John Cooke, Ernie Orpin, Lloyd Paul

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

The deadline for submissions to the next edition of the **PRINTED Handshake** is **October 30, 2010**

Harvey Douglas, Western Vice President "showed the AOTS colours" at the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario 2010 Conference meeting in Killarney, MB.



AOTS display - 2010 Conference Killarney, MB

Editor's Note: I was sent some wonderful photos to use in this and previous editions, sadly you could only see most of them in "black & white". If you go to the AOTS web site, you can see them all in full colour. At the Annual National Meeting held in Jackson's Point, Ontario in April, I had copies of the previous issue of the Handshake printed in full colour, all seemed impressed, but no action was taken. If you agree with me that a "full colour" Handshake is the way to go, let your thoughts be known to your local area VP's, Conference Reps and/or local councils. It will cost money, be sure of that, but, I believe it will be worth the effort and money.

The next issue, hopefully, will contain many pictures of the October 1st and 2nd, 2010 "Drumathon", wouldn't it be great to have photos from the start in Angola, and proceeding in at least 100 places across Canada!

When the "Drumathon" is in your area, snap a few photos and send them to the Handshake. Thank you **Harold**

Richard Paul Deitriche would like me to send along his new address - 210 - 100 McFarlane Ave., Chatham, ON N7L 2K4
 email address - rdeitriche@cogeco.ca - also one of his latest poems -

Itchy feet

Itchy feet I do have
 I move from the north to find a new bed
 No more bear or black flies for me
 I move to Chatham in the banana belt you see
 Itchy feet I do have
 No more roaming for me I say
 My itchy feet to go away
 I moved from the north, oh yes to stay
 No black bear or flies to
 I can enjoy my new life too
 Itchy feet I did have
 I hope they go away I pray
Itchy feet.

Richard Paul Deitriche

National Meetings and Spring Roundup 2010Continued from page one

“Blown by God Toward Newness” was the title of Will’s presentation and he instilled everyone there with a new sense of the environmental and ecological challenge we face in the days, months and years ahead.

Will outlined various issues related to what we can do in our own congregations. He provided insights into the work of the church (Ecology Action Alliance, Green Team initiatives, Green Guide for Faith Communities, Moratorium on Dump site 412 and the Moderator's message following the Copenhagen conference).

In addition, there were four excellent workshops: Harold Lorenz provided a comprehensive “overview” of his work as Handshake Editor, Reverend Brian Bigelow conducted an insightful workshop entitled “God’s Politics”. Bill Clark focused on the challenges of addictions and Jim McKibbin delivered an interactive workshop on “Visualizing the Future”.

Musical entertainment for Saturday evening was provided by “The C Denny Band” – a very talented family group.

Jim Watson and Ken Little provided great leadership for all our sing-a-longs and also for our worship service Sunday morning, which was conducted by Reverend Brian Bigelow. Craig Watson joined Jim and Ken in inspiring us with his musical leadership during the sing-a-longs.

The organizing committee did a fabulous job with many thanks going out to Ken Lane, Bill Brownlee, John Sheridan, Brian Bigelow, and of course, registrar Keeling Little. Thank you Manitou!

Jim McKibbin

Northminster United Church, Oshawa, Ontario



Northminster United Church (Oshawa) AOTS Men’s Club led the Service of Worship, Sunday, April 25th, 2010. There were guests from member clubs in the Bay of Quinte Conference (Wellington and George Street United, Peterborough) as well as those from the Northminster congregation. Jim McKibbin, National AOTS President, was the guest speaker. Jim’s message was titled, “Taking the Journey – the Road Ahead.” His sermon was scripturally based on Revelation: 7: 9 – 17. He asked those present to think about their past and where they have travelled and challenged the congregation in the choices that must be made in their future and in the church at large. Enhancing the Service of Worship was the Northminster Choir, under the capable leadership of Music Director, Ashton McMaster. Following worship, the congregation enjoyed lunch, served by the Northminster Friendship Club.

L to R - Front row: Bob Miller, Gord Terwillegar, Ed Goudge, Doug Palmer, Morley Davidson. Second row: Jim McKibbin, Bob Brawn, Norm McLeod, Bill Gilbert, Jim Waterfall. Third row: John Hoskin, John Mathews.

Submitted by *Morley Davidson* - Club President

The Minnedosa United Church AOTS Men's Club - Manitoba

The Minnedosa United Church AOTS Men's Club have had two more successful events this past March.

On Friday March 5, the club was able to raise \$800 to go toward the Haiti Relief Effort of the United Church of Canada at their regular Spring Pancake Supper.

The men again gathered on Wednesday March 17th at St. Alphonse Catholic Church in Minnedosa to prepare a Beef Stew Supper. While the men did the cooking and serving, the UCW held a bake sale and the church members provided vegetables, buns and dessert. The proceeds from this project will all go to the new church.

Everyone had a good time, a good supper and are looking forward to our next event that will hopefully be held in the new building.



The early risers , Alf Iverson & Elgan Hall, waiting to get in to make supper.



The "cooking" crew, ready for action.



Four satisfied customers at the St. Patrick Stew Supper.



President Don Jones presenting the \$800 proceeds from the Pancake Supper to the Board Chairman, Minnedosa United Church for the Haiti Earthquake relief fund.

Our old church was destroyed by fire (arson) nearly three years ago. This picture shows the new church located on the site of its predecessor. This building will be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of April with no mortgage and maybe even a few dollars left in the building fund. Everyone is looking forward to being able to worship in the new sanctuary and hold events in the hall. The AOTS Men's club have raised funds to complete the quiet room by installing an electric fire place and providing chairs, so that funeral families, brides & grooms and small meetings can have a special place.



Grace United Church AOTS Trenton, Ontario

Grace United Church AOTS men served breakfast on April 10th, with scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, hash browns, toast, fruit bowl, coffee & juice. We were successful in raising nearly \$600.00 in profit.

Our club operates on a \$3,000.00 plus budget, with a pancake supper in February, a breakfast spring & fall and a strawberry social on June 30th.

The money the club generates is used for a variety of projects including a Beaver & Cub troop. We also provide a bursary for young people going into the ministry which is known as the V.P. Carswell Bursary, named after the late Val Carswell who was a long time member of the club.

Our funds also help support the church Stewarts. We make a donation to our local church camp, Quin-Mo-Lac, this donation can vary depending on what the budget can afford.

Even though our projects are organized by AOTS, we are very fortunate that the whole congregation comes out to help us.

Respectfully Submitted by *Al Anthony*



Little Johnny! (You all knew a kid like this, but, if you didn't you missed a lot!)

A new young teacher started her class with, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!". After a few seconds, little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid Johnny?" "No, ma'am, but I hated to see you standing there all by yourself".

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Johnny. "Giving up?"



The math teacher saw that Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, "Johnny! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44? Johnny quickly replied, "NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!"

Thought for today...

Based in part on material from 'Lead like Jesus' by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges.

Paul and Servant Leadership and You

1) Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way we do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with – even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with.

13-14) Forget about deciding what's right for each other. Here's what you need to be concerned about: that you don't get in the way of someone else, making life more difficult than it already is. I'm convinced – Jesus convinced me! – that everything as it is in itself is holy. We, of course, by the way we treat it or talk about it, can contaminate it.

19-21) So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault. You're certainly not going to permit an argument over what is served or not served at supper to wreck God's work among you, are you? I said it before and I'll say it again: All food is good, but it can turn bad if you use it badly, if you use it to trip others up and send them sprawling. When you sit down to a meal, your primary concern should not be to feed your own face but to share the life of Jesus. Be sensitive and courteous to the others who are eating. Don't eat or say or do anything that might interfere with the free exchange of love.

22-23) Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behaviour and your belief are coherent. But if you're not sure, if you notice you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe – some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them – then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.

Selected verses from Romans 14 (The Message)

Faith and business. Jesus and parenting. Personal and professional. Servant and leader.

Seeing these words together make people uneasy. Our sophisticated culture encourages us to draw lines and keep our spiritual lives separate from our secular lives.

Luke 22:27 emphasizes Jesus' approach to leadership where he says, "I am among you as one that serves". This turns typical thinking of servant and leader upside down.

Being "Christian" means imitating Christ and imitating Jesus' method of leadership. Jesus promoted "Christian" relationships, knowledge and action by living on mission.

Continued on next page

Paul exemplified a person of action and he was constantly on mission. His ideas on leading, as expressed in these passages from his letter to the Romans, had no part in telling people how to think or what to do. He knew from experience that we are all different and a group is stronger and more versatile if advantage is taken of the strength of the people as individuals. As he says “Jesus convinced me that everything as it is in itself is holy.” But, he was insistent on “practicing what you preach”. In these verses he explains some of his ideas on what it means to follow Jesus and his ideas on acceptable behaviour when you are leading a group of fellow-believers. The way he lived was, for the most part, consistent with what he believed as a follower of Jesus.

How did Jesus lead his disciples? He invited them to be part of a mission. “Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men”. He didn’t invite them first to the upper room for a Bible study. He invited them to the mission! When we are on Christ’s mission together, we have fellowship that can’t be explained – the things we learn from God’s Word become more meaningful – our actions make a difference. The world today is in need of a different leadership role model from what we see almost everywhere. Countries, businesses, churches and families all experience misuse of trust, unresolved conflicts, social injustices and a general malaise of good leadership. In *Lead like Jesus*, Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges outline what they call “lessons from the greatest leadership role model of all time”.

Their book explores many methods and practices we might follow to approach the type of leadership which Jesus followed. But they note, “If we want to lead like Jesus, we have to become like Jesus.”.

Are you ready? You may want to study *Lead like Jesus* to find out.

Let us pray –

God, you have given me some ability and opportunity to lead.
You have guided me as I have grown in wisdom and in confidence
while remaining humble and teachable.
Help me now
to take what I have been given and use it to serve others by example.
Keep me ever mindful of what I owe you
and those who taught me so well
in Jesus’ name
Amen.

From *George Bishop* Spiritual Life and Leadership Chair



Wetaskiwin, Alberta in the news

The AOTS website received a wonderful annual report from the AOTS club of First United Church in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. As chairman Dan Liddle says, they are an AOTS club because “that is what we do”. They are very much still making a difference.

Adapting to a changing world

In February of 2009 the Wetaskiwin club was asked to cater the wedding of two woman members of the congregation. They didn't hesitate. As Dan Liddle points out, “We did the best we could and successfully catered Sheila and Linda's June wedding with about 150 people present. They are both very active in the church. This past year has provided an opportunity to demonstrate our ability to adapt to the ever changing world.”

Forgiveness

In October, their church burned to the ground apparently due to the work of an arsonist. An individual has been arrested and is facing trial for committing arson in churches. And while this is an enormous loss, they have decided to start again and rebuild their church. Because of the nature of the fire little in the way artifacts, historical documents or memorabilia could be saved. It was a devastating loss. The church is actively taking the path of restorative justice as they deal with all that was lost.

By November, the club had organized a Ham Supper which fed over 300 people at a temporary location.

Members honoured – message from AOTS President

Please pass on to all the men of the Wetaskiwin AOTS and all members of your congregation my deep appreciation for the work you have done in your community and elsewhere on behalf of AOTS. The spirit of servant leadership is exemplified in the selfless approach to the work you, Dan, and your club have carried out over the years, in the face of great difficulty. May this spirit sustain you now, at these times of great challenge for your congregation. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you take up the task of rebuilding your church and engage in the deep spiritual practice of lamentation, truth, reconciliation and forgiveness. The Wetaskiwin AOTS makes a difference. I am honoured to lead this organization on the national level, knowing that there are men and clubs in it like yours. Please pass on my best wishes to all your club members and their families, especially to Art Smith, Walden Smith, Bill Hughes and Alvin Klause, who have served in so many countless ways over the years and who you have honoured.

Thank you,

Jim McKibbin National President, AOTS

Up Date on Camp Quin-Mo-Lac

A special United Church Camp in eastern Ontario, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, received a new face- lift via volunteers at the annual spring clean-up . There were 92 people taking part with some travelling more than 100 km to help out.

Included were 22 AOTS men representing eight of the Bay of Quinte Clubs who shared their time to help . With enthusiasm like this a lot can be accomplished but just as important is the comradery and the great feeling of supporting our youth.

Camp Quin-Mo-Lac serves some 1500 youth during the months of July and August . The Camp is also a year-round facility with a number of school and church groups taking advantage of the off-season programs.

Camp Quin-Mo-Lac will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday June 12th with an open house from 1 to 7 pm. For details check www.campqml.org.

Respectfully submitted by *Al Anthony* AOTS.

Abbey North Drummers visit Brandon, MB. May 9 & 10, 2010



A lot of work went into advertisements, sending out invitations and spreading the word about the Drummers coming to Central United Church in Brandon and look what happened. *The Grandmothers attended*, but where are the men and the ministers? Do they not like having fun? Do they not want to learn about other countries? Do they not think a good deed is worth doing?

Well men, the National Office and the Moderator have noticed the efforts of the Dondi Project team, so lets not give up, lets keep digging and lets keep believing that men do count in the United Church and we can do projects and that we can have a lot of fun sharing in Christian fellowship.

It's when you go to the schools that you find all kinds of kids who want to take part and learn about drums, drumming and the future of schools in other nations. See what happened when Bazz, Chris and Joe showed up at Harrison Middle School on Monday, May 10th at 9:00 AM.

Two hundred grades 6, 7 & 8 students went wild and made Bazz's day. An e-mail, a fax or a visit to the local school division office a few weeks before the drummers arrive in your area will open the school doors and they will often pick up on the idea of organizing a fund raising event or get involved in the drum-a-thon.

Harvey Douglas,
Western V.P.



“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!”



Greetings! You AOTS men have been a great strength as we move forward with the Dondi Project. Your time, talents and dollars are much appreciated. Thank You!

Currently (the month of May) the Abbey North Drummers – Christine Cullen, Joe Truss and Bazza Hayward, are holding drum circles and showing our award winning DVD – “Voices in the Ruins” in the four western provinces and northern Ontario.

In June we will be holding events in Newfoundland. Please keep those who are travelling in your thoughts and prayers and pray that the project might speak to the hearts and minds of those who gather. Blogs from our journeys are being posted on our website www.dondiproject.com

Fourteen months into this project we see communities experiencing the power of a drum circle to bring people together creating energy, community and engagement.

Let me share a few recent examples.

1) North Bay, Ontario:

A number of men who heard about the Dondi Project in February at the “Breaking the Ice Manitou Conference of the United Church of Canada Men’s Event” felt called to get North Bay on board. They organized an event at Omond Memorial United Church.

Forty five people showed up, an intergenerational and ecumenical gathering.

A man and his university aged son brought their own drums and made music side by side;

A United Church minister brought his eight year old daughter and joined in the rhythm;

Two young men from Angola, living in North Bay, spoke of how the DVD we showed had touched them;

A woman astounded us by saying that her mother was born on the kitchen table of the Dondi manse!;

A Roman Catholic serving on his church’s Outreach Committee let us know that he was taking the Dondi Project back to his parish.

From this event, a group of men are already planning for North Bay to be one of our 100 sites participating in our National Drumathon on October 1st and 2nd.

“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!”

2) Jackson’s Point:

About 80 of us gathered together in a drum circle. There was an incredible amount of energy. Most of us didn’t want it to end. We sounded really good!! Even Bazza said so!!

Some of us who never thought we’d be caught dead doing this kind of thing in public, with people we know, are loving it! As we move through our resistance we find new blessings. As the poet Cummings says “We can never be born too many times.”

During our circle time, Jonathan Wardlaw from Trinity UC AOTS in Newmarket, shared a project about ‘Dondi Gift Cards’. With the strong support of his club, he created a small variety of these “priceless” gift cards, with the promotion and availability of the cards beginning in November 2009. Christmas sales were prompt as folks took the number of cards they wanted, the club sending their “Dondi Dollars” donations to Lloyd Paul. All clubs are more than welcome to copy these cards, the master copies soon to be available on the National AOTS website. The gift cards remain available throughout the year at the church, to date the Dondi Project has benefited with gifts totaling over \$2,000. Way to go Jonathan! *Continued on page 11*

After our drum circle a man came up to me and said he would like to match whatever monies came into the Dondi Project from the offering at our Sunday morning worship service, up to \$2000! We let the men know of this challenge/opportunity. The money was counted following worship and \$1965 had come in. We needed to reach \$2000 so the hat was passed over lunch and we went over the top! Well done men and thanks to the anonymous donor!!

“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!”

3) Trinity United Church, Grimsby, Ontario:

There was lots of energy from the Rev. Christina Paradela at Trinity UC about the Dondi Project. Bazza and I had first met her at the annual meeting of Hamilton Conference in May 2009. She had expressed interest in the project and there were lots of interesting connections between Trinity and Dondi. Eleanor Knight, a member of Trinity, served for many years as a nurse in Angola on behalf of the United Church of Canada along with her husband Dr. Alan Knight. They were much loved in Angola. When we visited Angola in July 2009 the people showed us where Dr. Knight’s ashes had been buried and they told us of the great ministries they had had with the people.

Bev Houslander, a member of Trinity, had spent two years in Lobito, Angola teaching English as a second language. She is a member of their outreach committee who were very interested in hearing about the Dondi Project.

The men also caught the Dondi spirit and 10 men agreed to coordinate a supper and promote the event. Niagara Presbytery men, who have had a yearly gathering for 37 years, chose to make this event their annual gathering. At this point Christina had to change tactics and make it a “men only” event because of the numbers!

When I emailed her saying that at each event we were seeking to raise \$2500 the response she heard from the organizing group was “is that all!”

What a great night we had! The men served a spaghetti supper and wine was served! I haven’t often been at a United Church where that happened! Sixty-five men attended. We had a wonderful drum circle in the sanctuary. (See the photo on page 12).

Eleanor Knight, having just celebrated her 90th birthday, was there. Her daughter, who now works for Amnesty International, spoke of how important the development of education is for the future of the Angolan people. One of the men made a huge “Men’s Ministries” sign of our logo which now hangs at my desk at the General Council Office. A puppet play about the Dondi project, with some Portuguese in it, was written and offered during worship to help promote the project. Over \$6000 was raised that night for the Lutamo School in Dondi!!

“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!”

4) Grace United Church, Napanee, Ontario:

The Rev. Frank Hamper at Grace UC was very interested in promoting the Dondi Project with the congregation and community in Napanee.

He organized an evening of music and was a well dressed MC in his tuxedo. All the artists performed gratis. We were treated to country music, some music from “More Voices”, and a Belleville Christian singing group called “Keeping the Faith”. The 4 minute DVD on the Dondi Project was shown.

Continued from page 11

All ages joined in a drum circle. A number of men from other AOTS groups showed up: Wellington, Grace in Trenton and George St. in Peterborough. Frank made sure the offering plate was passed. All proceeds went to the Dondi Project. This was the first time we went over \$3000 on one evening - \$3030!!

Way to go Grace!

“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!”

Stories continue to unfold. We are building toward a great story when at least 20 drummers gather at at least 100 sites each with \$250 in sponsors to celebrate our Drumathon – beginning in Angola and continuing coast to coast in Canada on October 1st and 2nd. We may even set a world record! And \$500,000 will be raised!! We can do it if this story weaves into your story and your men’s group story and your community story!

Let’s keep the stories coming.

Blessings to you and your work as men’s groups in your church and your community.

Lloyd Paul

Men’s Ministries

The United Church of Canada



**Trinity United Church, Grimsby, Ontario
Abbey North Drummers all setup and ready to go**

Duncan United Church, Duncan, B.C. AOTS Report

ACTIVITIES FOR THE PAST YEAR: There were the usual ten monthly General Club Meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month preceded by the Executive Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of every month. (Except for July and August). The monthly meetings are dinner meetings with Prayer and a Devotion followed by a presentation by a guest speaker or by a club member.

SOME OF THE PRESENTATIONS WERE:

- Ken Slade - A slide presentation on Ethiopia
- Carol Rolls -R.C.M.P. Auxiliary speaking on senior drivers
- Cathy Coulter - Our Parish Nurse
- Bev Medford - "The Flying Free" singing group
- David Adams - "All about Tea"
- Jan Sheppard - Speaking on "Down Sizing"
- Ken Swain - Slide show of Italy

Again, fellowship and friendship were enhanced by members who participated in many projects such as: Robbie Burn's Night, Pancake Brunches, Garage Sales, Harvest Fair, Fun Fair at the Church Picnic and manning the Salvation Army Kettles. Members also visited shut-ins and church members in hospital. We also conducted a lay service and sang carols at Cairnsmore Place.

During the year of 2009 we lost 3 members who all passed away in November. They were Allan Taylor, Chester Lloyd and Bev Medford who was an honorary member.

Respectfully submitted by *Mike Kanski*, Secretary



New Executive (left to right)

Vice Pres. - Mike Kanski; Treas. - Keith Bennett;
Pres.- David Adams; Secretary - Shaun Pattenden; Past Pres. - Ken Slade

Central Canada Roundup 2010 - Workshop – Visualizing the Future - by Jim McKibbin

In visualizing the future we start from a world challenged by misinformation. In the contention of ideas (for our attention) we are drowned in a sea of contradiction and deceit. Words are no longer used for the power to express the truth; rather now, for their power to seduce, to create consumerism, to both shape and define our want and needs.

In Barbara Brown Taylor's excellent book on preaching, "When God is Silent", she expounds on the thesis that in communication less is more; the efficiency of one's speech lends credibility to one's expression.

We live in a world where communication has a higher value place on it than contemplation, where information is in greater demand than reflection.

Our world of communication drowns God out for much of us. In visualizing the future we can only rely on God. That was the gist of a presentation I made to my workshop group at the spring roundup.

Subsequent to the presentation I asked each group member to spend some time in contemplative thought (20 minutes) *visualizing an AOTS and church of the future, specifically, messages or comments on our evolving ministry*, and to come back with some thoughts to share with everyone. There was only one catch. The thoughts had to be **6 words – no more and no less**.

Here are the results - On visualizing the future for the church and AOTS

1. Reach out to others by serving.
2. God's awesome work. View this planet.
3. Help us listen to our children.
4. Equip our youth for future goals.
5. Stop. Listen. Future is our youth.
6. Consider creation. Strive to preserve it.
7. God is not silent. He speaks.
8. Serve others through waves of kindness.
9. Be comfortable with Christianity. Encourage others.
10. Don't be stuck. Listen to others.
11. Schools for those who need them.
12. Engage stakeholders respected in crisis resolution.
13. Live AOTS daily in your community
14. Through service we hear our Lord.
15. Theme for religion – go to green
16. Meetings, speakers, youth and supporting others.
17. Tolerance breeds peace love and contentment.
18. Communicate, listen, love one and all.
19. God centered recreation leads to re-creation.
20. Spread god's love in your world.
21. Let god be our guide now.
22. Youth are the united church today.
23. Where is God's will towards war?
24. Men's fellowship is a great blessing.

In Heaven

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp-
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake".

"And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue".
"Hush, child", He said, "they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you".

JUDGE NOT!!

*Remember ... Just going to church doesn't make
you a Christian anymore than standing in your
garage makes you a car.*

St. Paul's United, Oakville, Ontario, Annual Report

The AOTS Men's Club of St. Paul's got off to a rip roaring start again in 2009. Our first meeting was a "Hot Chili Dinner" with our old friend, Lex Rutherford, home from Africa, telling us all about the wonderful success he is having in teaching the people of Kenya how to find water. Tens of thousands now have clean water for their personal use, livestock and gardening, providing time and funds to get an education. We give financial support to his work there.

In March we were delighted to have about 180 sit down with us for a Ham Dinner and wonderful entertainment. "A Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot", with music provided by Bryan Lytle, his son Scott, the Reverend Stephen Iverson, Tom Allen and Chris Arcand. It was a night to remember.

On Easter Sunday a hot breakfast was served to the happy but chilly group returning from the Sunrise Service at Bronte as well as all those who arrived early to enjoy the delicious breakfast before the Easter Morning Church Service. Thanks to George and Donald Cooper who arrived very early to cook up the sausage, bacon and eggs for us.

David Crown and his seven-piece Dixieland Jazz Band entertained us at our 'Cajun Night' in May. The music and the Cajun/Creole, hot and spicy Jambalaya seemed to tickle the palate of the crowd. It was a great night of intergenerational fellowship.

On May 15th we were off to visit our friends from St. James-Rosemount for our annual Golf Tournament with them at the Merri-Hill Golf and Country Club in Waterloo. Another wonderful day as usual with gorgeous weather and their famous 'Bavarian' dinner back at the church. If you missed this in 2009, you should plan to join us this year.

In June we had the pleasure of again providing ice cream and watermelon for the Annual Church Picnic. Early in the day the weather was a bit inclement and the venue moved to Watt Hall. In spite of a bit of bad weather, a good time was had by all.

On Saturday, September 12th, about 120 men, women and children showed up for the annual AOTS sponsored BBQ and Corn Roast. We "pigged out" on hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings (like fried onions), sweet corn on the cob with lots of butter, potato chips, tea, coffee and pop, finished off with a variety of fruit pies topped with ice cream. That's about all we had to eat but we didn't go away hungry. We appreciate the opportunity to organize this event as an intergenerational "kick off" to the Fall Season in the Sunday School and the Church.

On September 16th about 34 men and 3 ladies participated in our Annual Golf Tournament at the beautiful Deerfield Golf Club in Oakville, with the men of St. James-Rosemount, Kitchener as our guests.

We were also pleased to have two visitors from Trinity United, Oakville as part of our contingent this year. We hope that they will bring more next year ... and some of their ladies too! After the golf everyone moved to St. Paul's for a Roast Beef Dinner and presentation of trophies and prizes. We look forward to another great event in 2010. Start practicing now everyone.

In October we enjoyed another "Roast Beef Dinner" and entertainment provided by Bert and the Boys, (Bert Fonseca, Ron Brown and Harold DeVenne) and also Al, The Accordion Man with a mix of polkas, Cajun, country and waltzes.

At the Poinsettia Tea and Sale in November we sold lots of delicious Fruit Cakes. Thanks to all who wished to satisfy their sweet-tooth.

On December 4th our Christmas Buffet was spread for about 170 partiers. Entertainment was provided by Bryan Lytle and his friend from Mississauga, who favoured us with a number of harmonica duets. Then Charlie Hogg at the piano leading the singing of Christmas songs and carols. A very special treat was provided by a group of young pianists from St. Paul's: Evan Dando and Joel and Naomi Woods. A big "thank you" to all who contributed so capably. What would we do without you? Thank you all for supporting our social endeavours this past year. You helped us make some profit that we have tried to use wisely.

We have contributed to Lex Rutherford's "shallow well" water project in Africa, Operation Eyesight International, World Vision, Wesley Urban Ministries, Kerr Street Mission, National AOTS and of course our own St. Paul's with the purchase of maintenance equipment for the new floor in Watt Hall as well as about \$800 toward the updating of our lighting, with \$1,000 going to the St. Paul's General Fund.

Thank you! Thank you! For helping make it all possible.

Bud Farris President



Many thanks to Central Vice President, Ed Macdonald for most of the photos above, taken at the Central Canada Roundup and National Annual meeting held at Jackson's Point, Ontario in April 2010.