

# Connections... a Newsletter for St. James United Church

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I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." -  
Psalm 122:1

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things I enjoy about ministry here in Antigonish is that the church is never quiet. Throughout the days of the week there is the hustle and bustle of people coming and going as the many committees and groups within our church go about their work. There is always something going on at St. James - worship, study groups, meetings, workshops, special events, and people just stopping in to the office.

What surprised and delighted me last year was discovering that while many churches slow down their ministry in the summer months here at St. James we simply switch gears. The Olde Stump Frolic and the celebrations and gatherings marking a pause for summer fill up our June and then with the flowers coming to bloom St. David's opens again for worship. Throughout July we fill our Sundays with welcoming visitors to the church and marking the Highland Games Week and the arrival of a new class at the Coady International Institute.

August may be the quietest month for our church activities but honestly compared to many churches who combine with another congregation or close for the month because of low numbers, our attendance and worship presence remain strong. We continue to be a place of faith in Antigonish and in Cape George during the warm quiet days which bring so many family and friends to our area.

I think that it is important that we continue to be active during the summer months. For what better time is there for us to live out the hospitality of Christ then when we welcome strangers among us and greet friends who have been away for the winter?

May the different activities and experiences of these months be a time for your faith and our faith together to deepen and grow. When we shift gears again in the fall and return to many of the things we set aside for the summer, may we do so with a renewed vigor and a rejuvenated spirit.

God Bless you and yours this summer,



The Rev. Peter A Smith



At the Sunday morning service on June 14<sup>th</sup>, Bob and Mavis Murray were presented with a plaque in appreciation of their MANY years of dedicated service and leadership to our choirs at St. James. In making the presentation, Peter Rawding expressed thanks

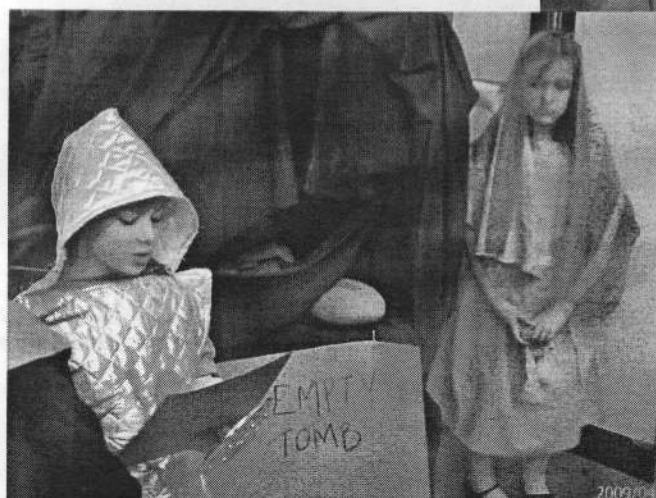
to Bob and Mavis for their combined total of ninety-eight years of loyal service to the music ministry at St. James. Flowers to Mavis were presented by Christine Morrison, and the choirs and congregation warmly applauded the outstanding duo for the generous sharing of their time and talents over the years. We look forward to many more years of singing together !

## Seniors Fellowship



Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>'s meeting of the Seniors' Fellowship was photographed after touring the beautiful gardens of Mike & Sheila Redden in Cape George. Left to right: Joan Pearson: Brenda Botterill: Sheila Davison; Mary MacLean: Barb Gardiner: Chris Morrison: Nettie Cameron: Emily Fox: Barry MacKenzie: Hazel Murray: Dorothy Muirhead: Emily Adams: MaryLou MacKenzie: Laura Reddick: Pat Hensbee: Vernon Murray, Mavis Murray and Bob Murray kneeling.

# Passion Sunday



On Palm Sunday this year, the children of the Sunday School presented "A Walk Thorough Holy Week" for the congregation. As people left the Sanctuary they were invited to step into the Upper Room, go through the Garden of Gethsemane, hear what happened at the trial held for Jesus, stand before the cross as the Roman soldier spoke, and have the guards at the tomb tell them of the hope the disciples had that Jesus would rise again. Thanks to all the children, teachers, and parents who made this special event possible!



## Highlights from Maritime Conference Sackville NB 2009

On May 28<sup>th</sup>- May 31<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Peter Smith, Brenda Botterill, and Betty Webber attended the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada. Ministers and delegates from all over Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda and the Gaspé of Quebec came together to reconnect with each other as well as to work on the business of the United Church.



The Annual Meeting opened with a welcome from Ray Solomon, a First Nations prison chaplain. The United Church has made a deliberate effort to reconnect and work with the First Nations people and since Sackville is part of the Mi'kmaq territory it was meaningful to have him open our meeting.

Worship plays a big part of the Conference Annual Meeting. As well as the scheduled worship there were times throughout the sessions when we paused to sing and pray together. Linnea Good and David Jonnson provided music leadership and presented a concert on Friday Evening after business had concluded. "The Message", a praise band of young United Church people, led worship for Youth Forum and for all the Conference on Saturday night.

The Service of Remembrance, a time to give thanks to God for those who have worked so hard to build up the church, concluded the gathering on Thursday night. To honour the ministers and friends of the Conference who had died in the past year a stained glass vase was constructed as the names and pictures were brought before God in prayer.

Friday morning began with worship and then the filming of a Minute for Mission showing the Mission and Service story telling shawls. Brenda wore the shawl on behalf of St. James in the long line of people from churches all around the Maritimes. Bonnie Fraser was standing next to her wearing the shawl for Trinity United Church in New Glasgow.

A great deal of the time at the meeting was spent dealing with proposals-requests for the General Council to consider which come from Congregations, Presbyteries, and Committees. There were twenty-seven proposals which dealt with issues ranging from fair mining practices in Central America to the new changes for educating ministers in the church. The Proposals Committee of Conference (which includes Rev. Peter)

helped guide the process so that the majority of time could be spent on talking about the requests. A listing of the individual proposals can be found on the Maritime Conference website (<http://marconf.ca/09AnnMeet.htm>)

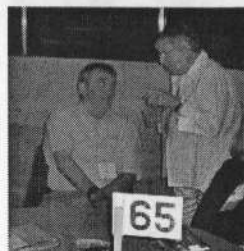
Groups of proposals were introduced with a theme presentation to get delegates thinking before the meeting began to consider and act on the requests. The theme presentations were titled- "Gospel and Empire – What about us?" and were introduced by Rev. Russell Daye from Halifax. He spoke of different forms of Empire and highlighted Burnt Church fisheries and the conflict between the Acadian and First Nations fishers in 2000. Delores Feltmate continued with the theme in relation to Children in Care (foster children). She outlined the trials children go through when they are placed in foster care and had many statistics on the likelihood of Children in Care growing up to be successful citizens. Eric Tusz-King picked up the theme of Empire when he spoke about alternate energy movement. He spoke about EOS-Eco Energy trying to promote wind farms as an alternate source of energy and the resistance they have encountered from business and government. The General Council guest brought Empire to light regarding the Truth and Reconciliation work that is on going with First Nation's people and the United Church.

A number of elections were held during the work on Friday and Saturday. David Hewitt a diaconal minister from New Minas, was elected to sit on the General Council Executive for Maritime Conference for the next six years. Ruth Gamble a Designated Lay Minister was president elect for next year. Commissioners were also selected to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> General Council which meets this August in Kelowna.

The Intermediates and Youth Forum numbered over 200 this year and began the evening session on Saturday with much enthusiasm and activity- leading everyone in song, prayer, and energetic worship. There was literally dancing in the aisles as the worship finished!

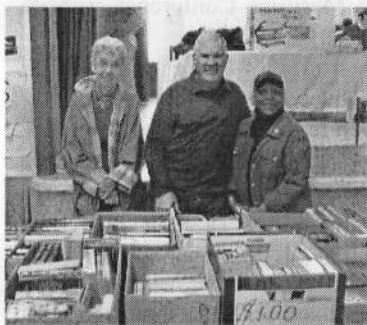
Sunday morning everyone gathered for the Service of Celebration of Ministry. With over 1100 people present, four people were ordained and one was commissioned, four were recognized as lay ministers and one minister was welcomed from the Presbyterian Church. The Service ended with the Rev. Bob Johnson being installed as the new President of Conference.

The Annual Meeting of Conference is a great way to see the wider United Church at work and to meet (and make) friends from around the Maritimes. The meetings are open and everyone is welcome to watch the proceedings and be a part of the larger United Church as it gathers to worship and work.



*"Ken & Brenda catching up on the news,"*

## The Olde Stump Frolic



The Olde Stump Frolic took place this year on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The uncertain weather moved some of the activities inside but that didn't stop people from enjoying the games and pony rides outside.

The preparations began for this year's edition of the Stump Frolic long before the main event. Volunteers worked hard to prepare everything.



This year was another opportunity to find great bargains on the white and silver elephant tables, browse the book and bake tables, enjoy some homemade soup or a hotdog, listen to the many different performers, and participate in the silent auction.



This year was certainly a time when both "fun" and "funds" were raised at St. James! Many thanks to all our members who volunteered to help with this event.

## The Sunday School Closing

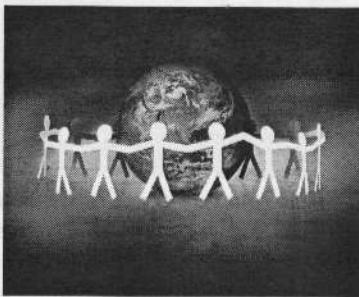


Sunday School closing took place on June 21<sup>st</sup> with the children participating in the service. The children treated us to some wonderful music and readings. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our Sunday School teachers.



## Coady Welcome Service and Reception

On Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> a special welcome will be extended to the 2009 Coady International Institute participants. They will be invited to join the St. James congregation at our 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and for a hot meal luncheon immediately following. Last year the turn out was great with a very large participation by both St. James and the Coady Institute. We hope this year will be the same. Naturally, music and entertainment will be included at the reception.



The Outreach and Communications Committee, the Congregational Life and Hospitality Committee and the Worship Committee would like to invite you to be a part of this very special occasion. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend. The Hot Meal luncheon will be a success with your help. Thank you in advance for any "dish" you are able to provide.

## More places to worship during the Summer!

Starting this week you might notice some familiar faces in the congregation disappear. Many of those folks haven't gone anywhere on holidays its just the sign that the church at St. David's has opened its doors again for the summer months. On Sundays from the end of June until early September (Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> until Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> this year except for Highland Games Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>) the people living in Cape George along with summer friends and visitors gather at 9:00 am for worship. A cozy country church on Highway 337 overlooking St. George's Bay, St. David's United Church is another place where our congregation worships in the summer months.



To our congregation members who leave us for the summer months to worship at their beautiful rural church, we will miss you. We hope you will join us for our Highland Games service and the 2009 Coady International Institute service and reception. Have a safe, relaxing and fun filled summer.



## St. James United Church Capital Campaign Committee Report

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 St. James Congregation met at the request of the Capital Campaign Committee to discuss the next phase of the Capital Campaign.



As this was a formal Congregational meeting, Chair of Council Doug Hunter presided as Chair. Rev. Peter Smith gave the history of the Committee work, showing how the process began, and how it tied back into the Interim Ministry work. Brian MacLeod then reviewed the committee focus group and consultation process to date.

The committee has specific emphases on ongoing consultation so that each step is reviewed, discussed and approved by the congregation. Then the next steps are discussed and the committee does follow up work, bringing it back to the Congregation each time.

Dale Archibald then led a discussion of the three options developed to date. After much discussion it was decided to ask Dale to do a detailed report by fall on options B & C, with specific attention to the possibility of raising the hall floor level, and looking carefully at the location of the nursery. This report will include detailed plans and dimensions, as well as exploring structural and logistics issues. Budget costs will also be considered.

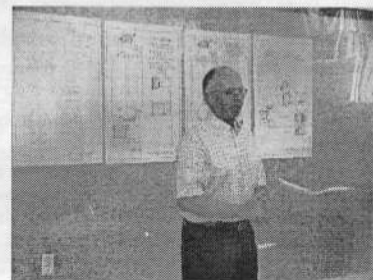
The main discussions were centered on the possibility of raising the hall floor to bring all floors, (stage, hall, kitchen & parlor) to the same level. This impacts the outside entrance, the need for an addition, and several other issues. These are all to be explored before the fall meeting.

Your committee encourages continuous input. Please contact any member of the committee if you have questions, concerns or suggestions.

Respectfully,

Brian MacLeod

Chair



Tim Hinds was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and raised there and in Alberta and British Columbia. Michèle Ashby is a proud Canadian born in the USA and raised in Nova Scotia and Ontario. They both joined the Canadian Armed Forces and enjoyed successful military careers - Tim in the infantry and then as a firefighter and Michèle as a mechanic and then a dental assistant. Postings took them around most of Canada. They met while posted in Germany and were married within the year. After retiring from the military they lived in Nunavut for over a decade; mostly in Rankin Inlet, but more recently in the capital, Iqaluit. Tim became the Fire Marshal for the territory and Michèle wore a number of hats, but was mainly a Justice of the Peace.

They had been looking for the perfect place to retire for some years now and were leaning toward western Canada when fate brought them to Nova Scotia last October. A wrong turn off the causeway, the perfect home for sale in Linwood - and the rest is history! During the week that they were deciding if Nova Scotia was right for them they attended a service at St. James and were blown away by the friendliness of our congregation. Within six weeks they had sold their home in the arctic, resigned from their jobs, and moved here. They have absolutely no regrets and are enjoying integration into their church family and neighbourhood. Tim has joined the Men's Group, the Lion's Club, the Army Cadet Corps and the Tracadie & District Volunteer Fire Department. Michèle is happily singing with the choir, has joined the Social Responsibility Committee, will join the United Church Women's Group in the fall and is doing some volunteer work. It was important to them to officially become members of St. James, which happened on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Since arriving, they have adopted two cats and a dog. Tim and Michèle enjoy travel, photography, reading, movies, live music and theatre, and Tim loves to golf.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES Beware of the wrath of the Session

These are the notes from the Minutes of the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church, Antigonish, meeting in the Manse on March 10, 1876. After devotional exercises, the minutes of the last meeting were read and sustained. There then followed the reason for the meeting as follows:

"Mr. Cameron and his wife having confirmed before the Session in answer to a citation to answer to the charge of intoxication, both of them acknowledged the correctness of the charge, expressing their sorry for it and their resolution, God helping them to abstain entirely from the use of intoxicating drinks hereafter. They were admonished in suitable terms by different members of the Session and the Moderator (note: Minister Rev. Peter Goodfellow) and were commended to God for prayer and dismissed. The Session agreed that Mr. & Mrs. Cameron should not approach the Table of the Lord at next Communion. The Moderator stated to the Session that Mr. Kirk, a member of the Church had lately laid a complaint against Mr. John Copeland, druggist for selling rum and other intoxicating drinks and especially for selling it to Mr. Cameron through his son while he, Mr. Cameron was intoxicated. Mr. Copeland was present and acknowledged in general that he had been selling rum and explained that James Cameron had got from 20 to 28 cents worth of brandy for his father, stating that his father was sick and sent him for it. The Session deemed this explanation satisfactory and in Mr. Copeland promising that he would sell no more from this time forth, dismissed the case.

Signed John MacMillan, Clerk"

**Tokens of Grace** by Laurie Stanley-Blackwell (Cape Breton University Press) an abbreviated review taken from a full review by John Hamilton

For those who would like a descriptive experience of the Highland Protestant immigrant open-air communion gatherings (1835-1900), this is a heartily readable book. The author has assembled a valuable collection of oral history of what the open-air communion tradition in Presbyterian Gaelic-speaking Cape Breton was like. The scale of these gatherings was quite amazing with people walking distances of over 100 miles for a 5 day structured event where communion and a communal experience would define the larger community. Quite evident from the book is the profound emotional reality of the gatherings and historical experience. Also these gatherings were clearly tied to the Gaelic language and culture, not being readily transferable to English. This does instantly bring to mind the present difficulties with many of the First Nations with the church.

Do read this book and be amazed at the depth of the experience.

An online newsletter Speaking of Faith hosted by Krista Tippet offers with each issue an interview with articulate leaders

giving voice to issues, ideas and developments related to spirituality.

The recent one is called *Repossessing Virtue: Living Differently, Beyond Economic Crisis*. Individual contributors reflect on how the economic downturn has changed their way of living.

The newsletter can be downloaded as a podcast or it can be read. Some other subjects covered can be found in their archives: Quarks and Creation, Spirituality of Parenting, The Soul in Depression, Evangelical Politics: 3 Generations, A New Voice for Islam

Check it out, online, *Speaking of Faith* newsletter@speakingoffaith.org

### Going Green

Did you know that prior to returning your pop cans to the recycling depot you can remove the tabs and donate them separately to the Kinsmen Clubs of Nova Scotia? They use the revenue to purchase wheelchairs for those in need. The tabs are collected at the recycling depot.



### Where Are They Now?

My nephew, Darryl Adams (formerly of Cape George) is currently living in Kandahar, Afghanistan where he has been recently commissioned. Major Darryl Adams is the lead helicopter pilot for his troop.

- submitted by Ellen Cross