



# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish, NS

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 8 Issue 1 • Spring 2014

*The light shines in the darkness, and  
Ring the bells that still can ring  
the darkness did not overcome it.  
Forget your perfect offering*

(John. 1: 5)

*There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.*

Leonard Cohen, Anthem

Dear People of St. James,

I find it difficult to believe that some 11 years have passed since Heather Facey and I were appointed by the Pictou Presbytery to work with an Interim Ministry Committee here at St. James. The committee was delegated with the task to seek out, recommend and work with an interim minister for a period of 2 years. Faced with particular challenges, like many other pastoral charges, the Presbytery believed it was important that you undergo a period of interim. The mandate was to examine your ministry at that point in time with the hope of discovering renewed purpose and direction. Such decisions are never easy for congregations and they are understandably met with frustration, resistance and even anger.

How well I remember the many meetings over a five year period! Fortunately, we were blessed with a small interim ministry committee of insightful and committed lay persons. They were as follows: Harley MacCaull, chair person, Brenda Botterill, Dale Archibald, Bob Day, Joanne MacKenzie, Pamela Cunningham, Jeffery Fraser, Bonnie Fraser, and Brian MacLeod. Their leadership, in cooperation with you and the interim minister, The Rev. Dr. Kenneth MacLeod placed you on a journey that resulted in a vision for future ministry at St. James.

What an uplifting experience it has been for me to return (after those years served on the committee) as a supply minister during Rev. Peter's sabbatical! Given the fact that you are so much a part of the ministry, I would surmise that you probably don't

fully appreciate all the positive changes that have taken place since those days of interim ministry. I will never forget the first time I walked into your newly renovated building! Wow! The worship space was breathtaking for me! More than that, on my first Sunday with you, I was impressed by your joy and excitement as you reached out to one another. I experienced a real sense of community. Furthermore, it is heartwarming to see the number of persons coming to the Hot Meal program, some of whom I see at worship on Sunday morning. While attending each week's Hot Meal, I also came to realize that, through your efforts, you are not only providing food for those who attend, you are enabling folks in need of love and friendship to experience it here.

What has been taking place during recent years at St. James very much resembles the experience of the disciples as they journeyed with Jesus to his crucifixion and resurrection. In hindsight, the interim period of ministry can be compared to what the first disciples experienced during the days leading to crucifixion. For them, as for you, it was a time filled with uncertainty, doubt, confusion, and frustration. On the other hand, the present atmosphere here at St. James can be likened to what the disciples eventually experienced following the resurrection. For them, as for you, it is one of purpose, excitement, fellowship, and new life.

Be proud of your accomplishments! Continue to challenge yourselves in what it means to be church in these contemporary times. Take advantage of your strengths, keep abreast with researchers and writers, study the scriptures from a contemporary perspective and pray for a world where divine love and justice will prevail. I thank you for inviting me to share with you in your ministry during these months. May the vision of love as shared by Jesus and others continue to be part of your daily walk both individually and as a community of faith.

*Your supply minister for February and March,  
The Rev. Dr. Norman Marple*

# *A New Beginning*

The congregation of St. James United Church ended 2013 with the dedication ceremony for our newly-redone sanctuary, hall and kitchen. Of course, the winter of 2013-14 will live on in our memories as one of the worst in recent years, and a blizzard on the afternoon of our first Sunday service in the new sanctuary prevented many members and friends of St. James from hearing the beautiful dedication speech delivered by Brian MacLeod. For the benefit of those who were unable to brave the snow on that day, here is the text of his words.



## **St. James United Church Official Dedication Ceremonies**

December 15, 2013

Remarks by Brian MacLeod  
Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

Welcome to this very special day for St. James United Church. It is an exceptional day and an exception project which we all have been able to complete here. It is a bit of a miracle and, while we did not part the red sea here, it will be remembered as a significant event in the history of this church. We all know the story of the time the church was cut in half and the twelve teams of oxen were used to pull it apart and make it larger. Many of us know the story of how the floor of the sanctuary was removed and over a six month period was replaced with a slanted floor so

those in back could better see to the front. This was particularly evident when we were renovating and had all the pews out. This project we are all part of here today will be remembered in that same way in years to come. And the real miracle is in the way the congregation came together to make it happen. Many people contributed, in their own way, with the talents and resources they had to give.

We will have a few remarks and thanks, and then we will have a ribbon cutting and cake cutting. The members of the Capital Campaign are present and please feel free to ask them questions about the renovations.

By way of history, we started this process about eight years ago, with a series of consultations and focus groups with the congregation. After many, many meetings, which had us building additions on to the building, and many different plans and ideas, I had people coming to me and saying, “can we just get on with it?” But the process we used, under the direction of some very helpful professionals, helped us to come together as a congregation, each making their contribution and having their say.

We had a new kitchen at the back off the building one time, and then another plan had us building a kitchen on the side of the building. We consulted and we consulted, to be sure we were considering all the options available. The floor we are standing on today used to be three and a half feet lower than it is now, and one of our underlying principles was to have the buildings as accessibility as possible. But the stage and sanctuary were at one level, the hall was at another, and the offices and kitchen were at another.

Then at a meeting where we were puzzling our way through a few problems, a small woman stood up at the back and said, “If you want this room (the hall) to be smaller so that you don’t have as much to heat, and if you want to have everything at the same level, why don’t you just raise the floor?” There was a brief pause, and a kind of uncomfortable laugh ran through the crowd, and then you could see people start to say, “Well, maybe we could, “, as they began to scratch their heads and think about this unusual idea. And so

from this small woman who had the courage to stand up and ask this question, we came to the plan we now have, and raised the floor. The woman's name is Brenda Botterill, and that is why we refer to this as the "Botterill Floor."

I think I can say there is not much that we could have done that was not done. And I am pleased to announce that we started out hoping to raise \$650,000, and actually raised \$886,000. So we were able to do virtually everything we wanted to do. I am especially pleased to be able to tell you that we are on budget with the project, and will have no debt at the end of the project. We have only a small, short term loan to bridge until all the pledges come in, as most people pledged over four or five years. To do a project like this with no overruns and leaving no debt is amazing, and is a testament to the wonderful work done here by everyone involved.

There are some people I would like to thank today for their contribution to this wonderful project. First a man named Paul Mack who runs a consulting company out of Toronto. He was recommended to us by Rev. Ken MacLeod. With no thought of remuneration, Paul Mack guided us through the first part of this process, training us in how to start the consultation process. Later we hired RBR Consultants out of Halifax. We worked with Adrienne Malloy who helped us raise the funds, but provided so much help in so many ways. We are deeply indebted to them for their assistance. We have a short term bridge loan with Maritime Conference Financial Services. This gives funds until our pledges all come in. Our thanks to them.

Rev. Ken MacLeod who did a three year interim ministry and first suggested we consider a capital campaign. Ken's contribution is much appreciated and we are grateful for his helping us get ready for this. We want to thank Ken Farrell at 98.9XFM for his many ads and news stories over the last few years. Ken actually called and offered to do ads as a community service for us, and did these to help with the fundraising, as well as doing the news stories. We are truly grateful to Ken as well. The Casket has covered our progress and we want to

say thanks to MJ and Corey for their help. Radio station 101.5 The Hawk has covered our progress and we are very grateful to them as well.

Three people that most of you would not even know, who have been especially helpful to me. Neil MacIsaac, who works with me at my day job, and took on all the financial reporting of the construction part of the project. Thanks to Natalie Newell who also works with me and has provided endless help and support. Finally, Katie Haverkort/Oicle who also works in my office and has done so much to help me and therefore the whole renovation project. The slide show you see running behind me was set up by her, and when I could not get it going this morning, she drove in from North Grant to help us out. We want to express a big thank you to each of these people for their contribution.

We have an accessibility committee who helped with the various questions around making the property accessibility, and even used a wheelchair to test things from the view of an individual with disabilities. They were also successful in getting us a \$10,000 grant from the provincial government, and we are grateful to the MLA at the time, Maurice Smith and the present MLA Randy Delorey for their help in that area, along with the Capital Assistance Program.

Our thanks to Carol MacIntosh, who, in addition to being on the committee has kept track of all the pledges, and is in charge of writing the cheques. Carol also has made a significant contribution to some of the colours in parts of the building!



Dora Construction is general contractors and Donald MacDonald and his crew have done a wonderful job. I want to acknowledge the sub-trades too numerous to mention for their fine work. I want to particularly say a word of thanks to Matthew Mattie. Matthew is the on site supervisor for Dora, and this man has gone far out of his way to accommodate our needs throughout the entire process. He has taken a very personal interest in this work, and we could always depend on him to help with anything we needed. As you know the buildings were occupied during the work, and Matt was always accommodating whether we needed a particular space ready, or if we changed something, or whatever we needed. We are very grateful to Matt.

Andrew Murray told me early on in this project that he would like to make his contribution to the campaign with his work. I did not know it at the time, but Andrew was destined to become like a staff member for the Capital Campaign Committee. In addition to his talents as a person who picks colours, chooses materials for carpet and seat cushions, Andrew ordered chairs, repainted parts of the murals in the church, rehabilitated lights, found places for our various memorabilia around the church and hall, and did a great deal of labour on various decorative pieces throughout the church and hall. We owe a great deal to Andrew for his contribution of both talents and hard work.

We are grateful to Gord Morrison who served not only as custodian of the church with all that that implies during construction, moving things around, planning ahead for the many changes and how to accommodate the needs of the congregation, but was a faithful and ever present member of the Committee. Whenever we needed to know where anything was, or where it could be in the church, Gord was always there for us, and we are very appreciative of his contribution. He helped hang the beautiful curtains which are an Andrew design, and made for us by Laura Reddick. All of these contributions are appreciated.

When we needed someone to step up and take on the job of collecting the money, coordinating the volunteers who made approaches to people

for pledges, and to companies in the community, we reached out to another faithful member of our committee, Harley MacCaull. Harley is a large part of the reason we started out expecting \$650,000, and raised \$886,000. His work is so very important, and pivotal. I knew I had asked the right guy to do this job when, five minutes before the meeting where I wanted to announce the new Chair of our Fund Raising arm, Harley agreed to do the job on condition that I would double my pledge ! Kind of a mixed blessing in a way!!

Rev. Peter Smith has been a truly exceptional part of this process. When we were starting I asked him what his role would be and he said he would provide spiritual guidance to the congregation. I want to tell you that this man has provided much more than that. He knows church law and processes, he understands construction, he has been always conscious of budget, and other practical matters. Rev. Peter has been constantly keeping on top of the construction and bringing things to the attention of our Committee and the contractors, and all in a way that has been at once gentle and relentless. On



behalf of the congregation I want to express a very special thanks to Rev. Peter for all he has done.

My final thanks is to Dale Archibald who as the Architect has done so much for the project. As a life long member of St. James, Dale has an intimate knowledge of the people and the history of this church. This knowledge has been invaluable as we proceed, but Dale has contributed so much more. As an Architect you tend to think of them as the person who draws the plans for the buildings. Dale has brought knowledge of working with people that has been coupled with the greatest patience I have ever seen. You know, when doing a job like this, everyone is an Architect! Everyone knows how to do things a little bit better. People are coming in with little drawings on the backs of envelopes and sketches on pieces of wood, or have an idea to make out this door and just “ make it two inches wider”, or wonder if we can just repaint that wall “ to see what it looks like !” Through it all Dale was as patient as anyone I have ever seen, listened to everyone. And all the while Dale did not charge any fees other than actual costs his firm had incurred while hiring other professionals needed to finish the job. I can not say enough thanks to Dale for all that he has done here.

For the ribbon cutting today I would like to invite some people forward to help. First I would like to invite Bob Murray who has been involved in this church for many, many years and in many capacities. ( Today is also Bob’s birthday, so it is a fitting thing that he should help.) Beryl MacIntosh will participate. She has also been a long time member of St. James and a part of the life of the congregation. Two young boys who will represent the newness of St. James and show great enthusiasm for the church are Ben and Jacob, and their dad Wallace Polson. Brenda Boterill who I mentioned earlier for her contribution, and Brenda represents how the spirit moves through us to show the rest of us the way. Rev. Peter Smith who has is the spiritual leader of our congregation. Chris Morrison as chair of Council. I will represent the Capital Campaign Committee. Harley Maccaull as Chair of the Fund Raising Chair, and Dale Archibald, the Architect.

Finally I will ask the Capital Campaign Committee to assemble after the ribbon cutting to cut the cake. Please feel free to look around and ask questions about the renovation, and thank you for coming.



## FINISHING TOUCHES

**B**y now we’ve become more comfortable with our new and improved church building. After all, we’ve been worshipping and gathering in our greatly improved space for more than three months. But how many of us have taken time to notice the finishing touches to our beautiful sanctuary, hall, and other public spaces? Every artistic flourish, every carefully-hung picture, every framed alter cloth and freshly-displayed collage, were the inspired work of our own Andrew Murray. Not a week goes by without some gentle tweaking: a throw rug here, a window treatment there, a fresh coat of paint to brighten a dreary room, a forgotten artifact newly displayed. Without his inspiration we’d still have a lovely church, but it wouldn’t feel like home.

### **Imagine Antigonish: Vintage Photos Promote Community Health**

We want to restore your vintage photos (1950s and earlier) for an Arts Health Antigonish (AHA!) project promoting community health through the arts. We plan to create a collection of restored and enlarged images of old B&W and/or sepia photos. We’re especially looking for those that depict family, work, play, and community scenes. Call or e-mail Dorothy Lander or John Graham-Pole (863-0396). All original photos will be returned to you safe and sound.

dorothy.lander@ns.sympatico.ca  
john.gp@live.com

# OFF THE SHELVES

When our old library was packed away in boxes for over half a year during the church renovations, it was a big job to return the books to the shelves in our newly appointed reading room. As some of us were shelving the books, it became clear that that each title was worthy of more than just a glance. We are fortunate to have many types of reading for all tastes and ages.

Some of us, Linda Darwish, Marilyn Gerriets, Glenna Quinn and I, have begun to bring books off the shelves to put on display for the enjoyment of those who are gathering for coffee. Nobody is pressured to have to hear about the books, but by just giving some titles space and exposure, there's a better chance that they will find the readers they deserve. Just as important, others who are reading something special at home that would be good for the church library are asked to bring their special books along.

Talk to Marilyn Gerriets who is the church librarian. She is interested in new titles to order. We are aiming to do this once a month so stay tuned! When possible we'll have some short blurbs on books too.



## Book Talk: Turning the World Upside Down by Lois Wilson

Lois Wilson grew up before feminism was a common concept and yet her independent parents raised her to value social justice, independence and her own spirituality. This memoir is striking because of its scope, going from the 1940s through to the late 1980s, a period of time which takes in the period of apartheid, growing understanding of diversity, as well as feminism. Lois Wilson, who served as United Church Moderator as well as president of both the Canadian and the World Council of Churches, reflects the best of what our church has seen and done.



*Stan Chapman and Sheila Davidson offer their musical gifts to the St. James congregation.*



*After church once a month is your chance to see what others are reading and share what you have found interesting, challenging, or insightful. Linda Darwish and Marilyn Gerriets share with Christina Chediak on March 2nd. The newsletter will give a sneak peak at a few of these titles each month.*

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY UPDATE

Last year, my husband Tim Hinds and I attended an interesting Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Volunteer Information Session in Truro. Tim represented the Antigonish Lions and I represented St. James United Church. The provincial organization holds these annually as AAH groups near their first spring clean-up drives.

You may well ask “What goes on there, making it worthwhile for these two folks to attend?” (at our own expense, I should perhaps mention, not St James’) Well, last year we thoroughly enjoyed the seminar and came away with renewed enthusiasm for the cause. We met with representatives of other communities’ groups and heard about their experiences. A volunteer roundtable highlighted what works and what doesn’t (logistically) and ideas about how to encourage new members to join your group. We had interesting presentations from a number of organizations including the AAH Provincial Coordinator and Clean Nova Scotia (who coordinate The Great NS Pick-Me-Up and The Ship to Shore program which addresses fishing industry waste). In addition we toured the Department of Transportation’s sign manufacturing shop. These are the people who made the lovely AAH signs now in place on either side of the roundabout at the intersection of Highways 7 and 104 that credit St James United Church’s efforts at maintaining it as a clean, attractive area.

The AAH program is an international initiative started in the US. It began in Nova Scotia in 1997 with 18 groups. There are now over 160 groups registered. Last spring over 102 groups took part in spring clean-ups wherein 1,300 volunteers cleaned over 495 kilometres of highway and four interchanges removing a total of 3,176 bags of garbage and 310 bags of recyclables from our highways. This is almost 52 tonnes of waste! If you’re having trouble imagining just what that looks like ... this picture represents 43 tonnes of garbage. So volunteers picked up this amount, plus another quarter of what’s here!

This year Tim and I are very much looking forward to attending another AAH Volunteer Information Session at the end of March in beautiful Mahone Bay. We anticipate participation in similar activities, some excellent presentations and a tour of the Mahone Bay Centre – which in addition to being an important community centre, is also a shining example of proper recycling systems.

I hope I’ve heightened your interest in participating in St James’ AAH spring clean-up. Watch for the May date announcement. We really do have a fun time – the weather always cooperates and Bennett’s Market provides snacks. And it only takes two hours! Another event to be aware of is the Great NS Pick Me Up in April. This is simply a great time of year to get out there and clean up around our own homes – every bit helps!



## The World Day of Prayer

was held this year at St Paul’s Anglican Church. The service was written by the Women of Egypt and involved participants from our local Catholic, Evangelical, Anglican and United churches. The theme Streams in the Desert was reflected in the readings as well as the hymns. Next year the World Day of Prayer will be held at St. James. The guest speaker was Mary Ann Forbes from St. Andrews who spoke about the Wishing Well Project that her family began as a memorial to a beloved Coady friend and has now seen benefits in Africa, India and Haiti.



# OUR NEW KITCHEN

*With the new kitchen come a number of kitchen practices that must be adhered to if St. James United Church is to be permitted to continue serving food to the general public. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these new rules, and if there are any questions please don't hesitate to ask for help from any of the St. James ladies who gave up several days in order to take the Ministry of Agriculture Food Safety course.*

March 2014

## GUIDELINES FOR ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH KITCHEN

- 1 Hang coats/jackets on the rack near the church office door
- 2 If you are holding an event where there is food involved, please be sure that the hall and kitchen workers stay in their own work areas [hall or kitchen] to avoid cross-contamination.
- 3 The large serving window in the kitchen is for outgoing dishes/food. The smaller return servery is for incoming dirty dishes only. To open or close shutters, please use one of the poles hanging up beside the refrigerator
- 4 St. James is a 'green' church so make sure not to use styrofoam or other disposable dishes that are not recyclable or compostible. Check for a triangle with a number on bottom.
- 5 Before working in the kitchen, wash hands in the hand washing sink, disinfect your work area with clorox spray [located beside the double sink].
- 6 The dishwasher takes 30 min to heat, the dishwashing cycle only 3 minutes. If need be use the clean trolley and place the rack with

dishes to air dry while you reload dish washer. When finished, turn dishwasher off and leave door ajar with dishcloth in door.

- 7 When washing pots, etc, put a small amount of Clorox in the rinse water.
- 8 If there is breakage of any item, please notify us and a donation is appreciated so a replacement can be purchased.
- 9 All dishcloths and aprons used are to be placed in the container under the dishwasher and we will do the laundry.
- 10 All food, either cooking or from the refrigerator, must be constantly checked to determine correct temp. before serving. Thermometers are on the window sill in a container. The temperature guide is in the kitchen.
- 11 All garbage must be placed in specific containers and is disposed of by the church custodian.
- 12 Fire regulations : we are allowed to seat for dinner/brunch 140 persons. Functions that are standing only we are allowed 180 persons.
- 13 A donation for using the kitchen of \$25.00 - \$50.00 would be greatly appreciated.
- 14 Aprons at present are in the bottom drawer by the dishwasher; disposable hairnets are provided and kept on the window sill in a box.

**VERY IMPORTANT :** before leaving the kitchen, check that the heat is turned to 15 degrees, the lights are off, and the dishwasher and any other appliances are turned off.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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## FIRST POST-RENOVATION POTLUCK

**B**illed as family friendly, the first potluck of 2014 was a great draw for young families, grandparents and all those in between. The newly renovated St. James Hall sat over 60 guests who found the truly international range of dishes a real attraction. The new kitchen drew rave reviews from those who worked it as well as those who viewed its many features.

The StFX Human Nutrition students who volunteered to work in the kitchen made the whole evening go very smoothly. There was a toy town set up in the corner of the hall for children to play. As always, the St. James International Pot Luck Dinners are always a child-friendly event. There were two people who spoke of upcoming projects and the diners also heard about the drop-in Potluck Room on Wednesdays and two upcoming art projects that have an international focus. Since it is the Year of the Horse we learned who was born during those special years. Everyone got to hold the horse figure painted by StFX student Shuchang (Emily) Dai. We also celebrated March birthdays. The evening was a great success and already folks are asking when the next event will be held. The Antigonish International Potluck open group page on Facebook is where you can find out more.



## FOOD SAFETY IN OUR NEW KITCHEN

**T**here was a good turnout for the information session about regulations and practices in our newly renovated kitchen on March 6th. Fran Haley and Brenda Hanlon gave many helpful points to guide us. Following this session Samantha Robichaud from the Dept of Agriculture offered a course in Food Handling for Volunteers on March 19. Again there has been a good response to that. St James expects to have guidelines and signage that will help all groups who use the kitchen. The Antigonish International

Potluck Group is one of those groups and has sent several members. A Full Course for Food Safety is scheduled on April 16th at St Ninians. This will cost \$27 and will come with a full certificate.



## From The Archives

*As St. James has just experienced its annual meeting for 2014, we thought there might be some interest in some excerpts from the annual meeting of St. James Presbyterian Church which took place in the School Room on November 23, 1898 which had eighteen members in attendance.*

“After dealing with the election of trustees, the financial report was then read by the treasurer Mr. M.L. Cunningham which showed a balance on hand of \$28.94. Mr. F.H. McPhie moved that the report be received and tabled. Mr. F.H. McPhie on behalf of the trustees gave a detailed statement of repairs, painting, shingling and putting in the Electric Light. There was a subscription list opened to defray the expense of putting in the light. This list was taken in charge by Mr. W.F. McPhie and footed up \$76.00 - \$59.00 of which were paid and the balance expected to be paid soon. The cost of wiring, procuring gasoline etc. amounts to about \$107.00. The painting of the inside of the church and school room cost \$243.00. This was paid by volunteer subscription to the extent of \$180.40 and the balance of \$62.60 was paid from the first offering at the reopening which amounted to \$76.93 and the balance of this collection after paying the said \$62.60 was handed to the Treasurer and combined in the general revenue of the Church. The balance due on the organ \$106.62 was paid from proceeds of the hot supper given by the Ladies in MacDonald Hall, the net proceeds of which was \$108.75 –the difference \$2.13 was added to the painting fund. Mr. McPhie also reported that Mr. McCurdy had offered \$21.50 for the old chandeliers. It was moved by Mr. L Cunningham, seconded and passed that this offer be accepted. Mr. Brough moved a vote of thanks to the Ladies, the Trustees for the very satisfactory way in which the improvements have been accomplished. Mr. W.F. McPhie moved that Mr. L. Cunningham be continued as Treasurer for the ensuing year at the usual salary of \$30.00 which was seconded and carried. Mr. Brough entered an earnest protest against what he called advancing away from Presbyterianism, moved that we give up all Christmas, Easter & Amen Services. Mr. F.H.

McPhie seconded the motion for the purpose of bringing it properly before the meeting reserving his right to vote against when put to vote. There was considerable discussion pro and con and when put to the meeting, motion was lost. There being nothing more before the meeting it was moved and seconded that we adjourn. Carried.

*A.C. Thompson, Secretary”*

## EARLY COMMUNICATIONS

I was working on a home renovation last October when I met an older carpenter who asked me what other projects I was working on and I mentioned I was assisting on the St James project. He responded, “I worked on the steeple repairs after the lightning strike in 1974. Too bad they had to cover up the peep hole.”

Peephole?

Apparently there was a peephole that had a specific purpose, and its function was explained to my carpenter friend by an even older carpenter, who would have been a boy around 1910. This is the story.

When there was a funeral at St James, the casket would be carried out the front doors to the awaiting horse and buggy hearse. As this happened the bell would begin to toll in the belfry, and continue to peal while the funeral cortege made its way through town on its way to the Protestant cemetery, which was still at its current location. Magically, when the hearse arrived at the foot of the gentle hill to the graveyard, the bell would cease to ring. How could this be possible in the age before telephones or any of the electrical devices we have today? You guessed it; the bell ringing was a two person responsibility, one person pulling the bell rope, one person in the belfry, spying through the one-inch hole directly aligned to the cemetery. One might say a birds eye view!

I have asked local historians about this and no one had heard of this before. But there is no evidence that it isn't true, and if it isn't it's a good story! It does prove that sometimes the simplest ideas are best!

*Andrew Murray*

## THE SAINT JAMES BQ

The Brass Quintet, or BQ (for short) is in the middle of its sixth season playing for church services at Saint James United. The usual play dates have been in November, Christmas Sunday, Christmas Eve, in February to celebrate African Heritage month, Easter Sunday and recently at the end of May to introduce a "Dixie" flavour.

The Quintet has also played for a service at Trinity United and Second Baptist churches in New Glasgow. At least four times the BQ has performed as part of a Pictou County Community Orchestra event and has also helped with music for The Olde Stumpe Frolic on several occasions.

The group averages a 75-minute practice once a week during the September to June season. There have been at least fifteen different players subbing for different BQ members who have had other involvements over the years. Generally the sub attends three or four practices and plays for a Sunday service and then the regular player returns. Musical opinions are shared freely among BQ members.

The Quintet tries to play a variety of religious music from different eras. William Byrd who composed during the late 1500's has given the BQ opportunity to play the 5 vocal parts (to be sung in Latin) using trumpets, french horn, trombone and tuba. Songs written by Duke Ellington for his religious concerts of the 1960's would be the most modern music played by the BQ. A vocal rendering of one of these songs has been a feature of the annual African Heritage Sunday in February.

The playing skills of BQ members have steadily improved. A benefit of having subs has been that some people unfamiliar with church services have been exposed to the United Church liturgy. The BQ hopes to continue playing and has a Gospel focus planned for a service in late May.

Regular members this season have been: Fred Davison, Trombone; Steve Holloway, Horn; Tammy Landry, Trumpet; Brent MacQuarrie, Trumpet; David Prince, Tuba.

*Family & friends of Pat Skinner join the St. James congregation to remember her keen involvement in issues of social justice.*



### *Prayer Circle*

Have you called the Prayer Circle yet? Anyone who would like to do so may call the Prayer Circle between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., seven days a week, and if by chance there is no answer please leave a message and I will call you back as soon as possible. The names of the callers and the people for whom prayers are requested is kept in strictest confidence and are known only by the members of the Prayer Circle. We never know when we might want (or need) the services of the Prayer Circle. Just remember, it's always there for you and the people you care about.

Marilyn Swim

## IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN *by Betty Webber*

St. James is struggling to be a 'Green Church'. We are learning but many are still careless where they throw their recyclable paper and garbage. Are there different instructions for the Town of Antigonish and the County of Antigonish? Why are so many green bags used?

On Tuesday, April 8, at 7p.m. St. James United Women is sponsoring an informal session with Nicole Havercourt, Waste Management Co-ordinator, so please come with your questions and concerns. The session will be held in the Meeting Room.



For almost as many years as it took to dream and design the renovations at St. James, the Meditation Group, now in its 14th year, has been wishing for a quiet room that was easily accessible to meditate. The group, begun by Beryl Macintosh in 1994 in her Jimtown home, had expressed its desire to have such a quiet space. Now, beginning in January 2014 there is a new place for this small but welcoming group to meet. At first the Multi Purpose Room was simply chairs, but soon with Andrew Murray's creative skills, it became an inspired getaway. The room is easy to reach, just off of Main Street and with barrier free washrooms and entrances, it poses no problem for anyone. We're happy that we continue to receive newcomers who want to try the practice of meditation. The group meets each Tuesday at 2:30. All are welcome.

## Sunday School News

We are also looking for new teachers for next year, no experience needed. With enough volunteers we can take turns on a weekly or monthly basis. Watch the bulletin for Recruitment Sunday.

### The Sunday School and Youth Group are Excited for a busy Spring:

Youth Group: Grades 5-12 Church Hall Info, games, and food ☺ 7:00-9:00

Saturday, March 22nd Science and Faith with weird and wonderful stuff to follow!

Saturday, April 12th Desolation of Smaug, all the popcorn you can eat!

Saturday, May, 11th Action Africa 2016, information and planning for our trip!

### Sunday School:

Palm Sunday, April 6th- Walk through Jerusalem (in the church hall) Practice begins Sunday, March 16th. Youth group age students please do come for parts and practice

Sunday, May 11th- Sunday School Song in service, practice every Sunday

Sunday, May 25th – Youth Group and Sunday School take the service- Practice begins April 27th

Sunday, June 8th – Youth Group and Sunday School will minister at the RK MacDonald Nursing home

Sunday, June 15th- Youth Group and Sunday School closing service and barbeque



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