



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 5 Issue 2 • June 2011

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for the one who promised is faithful.
And let us consider how we may spur one another
on toward love and good deeds.*

Hebrews 10:23-24

Dear Friends in Christ

June is a month which always reminds me of milestones. Perhaps it is the graduation celebrations at the high school, maybe it is the family birthdays and anniversaries which take place in the month, or perhaps it is simply the warmer weather that gets me thinking. No matter what the reason I am more mindful this time of year of how we reach special places in our lives as individuals, families, and as a church.

The interesting thing about milestones is how they mark our progress and show us where we have been while serving as the start of something new. This month we were pleased to celebrate with Bonnie Fraser the end of her educational journey yet our celebration was not simply that she had earned her degree. We also gave thanks to God that she was beginning her ordained ministry within the United Church.

The milestones we reach within the church are sometimes not as well defined as a graduation or ordination yet are important nevertheless because they help us recognize where we have come from and help us better see where we are going. Another year of Sunday School, another step toward renovating our building, another season for us to gather and worship together. All events marking our journey of faith at St James.

Within the pages of this newsletter, in the words and through the pictures, you can see signs of how we are walking together with the Spirit and how we are being God's people in Antigonish. May God bless what we have done and the milestones we have reached even as God continues to guide us into a faithful future.

Yours in Christ's Service,
The Rev. Peter A Smith

The Sunday school closing service was held June 19th with the children taking an active part in the service. Following the service a celebration was held to mark the occasion. Good food and an abundance of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Our past Sunday school year was a busy time with the children being involved in various activities held throughout the year. We look forward to beginning another Sunday school year starting on Sept 11th.

St. James is blest to have such a wonderful and enthusiastic group of children and youth and equally blest to have such wonderful dedicated and caring leaders. A big thank you to Judy McCarron, Sally van de Weil, Irene MacLeod, Linda Penner and Rhonda Semple.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer,
St. James Sunday school



Aaron Swim and Ida (above)
Sally and Paul van de Wiel (right)
Bronwyn and Anna Cook, Mavis
Murray, Brian MacLeod (below)



Water Service



Rev. Peter Smith, Dolna Garbary, Anne Camozzi, Barbara DeMarsh, Sara Avmaat, Michele Ashby, Fran Wittgens

Environment Sunday on June 5th gave St. James a chance to consider and give thanks for the gifts of God's creation and to reflect on our relationship with everything in the world. We were encouraged to strive to be responsible and take care of our planet.

The Social Justice Committee organized this service with Anne Camozzi and Rev. Peter Smith giving reflections. With the theme being Water there was a chance to browse over a video and materials from Sara Avmaat's trip to Palestine and Israel where water is such a crucial issue. A table that had pictures and activities related to water also helped to carry the theme of the day.

Handbell Choir



The anxiously awaited debut of the St. James Handbell Choir took place on Sunday, May 29th. The group play two pieces prior to the service, *Amazing Grace* and *Etude in C*, which were enjoyed all all. We can look forward to many more presentations from this newest addition to our musical family.

Social Justice Committee

Update - June 7, 2011

The St James Social Justice Committee is winding down its second year of activities and preparing for next year. The Committee's work this year involved sponsoring speaking events at the Church, writing advocacy letters, organizing a church service for World Environment Day, and initiating the Antigonish Gift Book project.

Among the speaking events that we sponsored were the Sisters in Spirit event, focusing on Aboriginal women's issues, and a presentation on Affordable Housing in Nova Scotia. Committee member, Sara Avmaat, gave a presentation on her time as a United Church-sponsored member of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel.

The Social Justice Committee initiated a letter writing and petition campaign encouraging action on poverty issues in our local community. Letters were sent to people at all levels of government and a petition was delivered to MLA Maurice Smith's office. It is not too late to visit the St James website to find out more about the letter writing campaign and to have your voice heard on this important issue that impacts us all.

To mark World Environment Day, the Social Justice Committee provided leadership as part of the Sunday service on June 5. The service was a celebration of the role of water in both our Christian tradition and in our lives. The service also recognized the precariousness of our fresh water supply and called us all to be good stewards of this life-giving resource.

Plans are already underway for the release of an expanded version of the Antigonish Gift Book that we will re-launch in November 2011. The Book promotes the idea of donating to a local organization as a gift on behalf of someone. Last year, over \$1500 was raised for five local organizations during our Christmas Campaign. In 2012, the Gift Book will draw attention to 10 local organizations that provide relief to people who are living in poverty.

The Social justice Committee is always looking for new members and new ideas. If you would like to find out more information or get involved, please contact the chair, Gina Sampson at 863-2428 or gsampson@stfx.ca.

First Family Fun Day

The first annual St. James Family Fun Day (formerly the Olde Stumpe Frolic) was blest with great weather and tons of fun. The sunshine resulted in lots of outdoor activities for the children including pony rides, barbeque and games such as the fishpond and face painting. Entertainment on the front lawn brought out a large crowd who enjoyed our many musical groups such as the Brass Ensemble and Guitar Group and featured many talented soloists from our choir and young people. A great variety of tables provided something for everyone with books, silent auction and the always popular bake table to name but a few.



Ralph Webber Mission & Service Sunday

This year St. James United Church held the tenth annual Ralph Webber Mission and Service Sunday on March 27th. The event honours the late Rev. Ralph Webber, a former minister at St. James, who passed away in 1999. The idea for the service came about because of some funds that friends and family donated at the time of Ralph's death.

The Webber family wanted to create a "living memorial" for this beloved man and, after conversations between the church and the family, a decision was made to focus on his love and passion for Mission and Service within the United Church. The service gives us the opportunity to learn how the fund is instrumental in carrying out important development and outreach work across Canada and around the world.

This Mission and Service Fund is a national fund supported by United Church congregations from across Canada that supports outreach efforts and programs both nationally and internationally. The Seafarer's Missions and the Brunswick Street Mission in Halifax that provides counseling as well as the basic needs of meals, clothing and household goods to people in need are two examples of ministries supported within Nova Scotia.

continued on page 5



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner • October 16th?

The event is designed to enable and encourage the congregation of St. James to mix and meet with others within the congregation with whom they don't usually have conversation - or may not know very well. Children and spouses/partners of the congregation are welcome additions.

Participants sign up either as guests or hosts. Hosts may accommodate between 2 and 10 diners and diners are encouraged to participate in couples or as singles, except of course where there are other family members involved. To help preserve the integrity of the event, participants are not encouraged to form groups of four or more, but to take the opportunity to spend social time with "new" people. Some hosts are only able to entertain a small group. Guests have no idea who their hosts may be until they set out on the night of the dinner itself and hosts have no idea who their guests will be until they arrive at the door.

The evening is primarily to allow us all to get to know each other in a social setting. However, guests are encouraged to make donations for their evening of dining out. A nominal sum is offered to each host to help defray the costs to them, and monies given over and above go into a fund of St. James.

Hosts are asked to offer family meals rather than 'gourmet'. This is not a cooking contest so diners and hosts can enjoy relaxing social time together. During sign-up all guests have opportunities to indicate difficulties relating to transport, diet requirements, or physical limitations. As long as the organizing group know in advance, all of these requests can be addressed.

All guests meet at St. James on the evening of the event and hosts are advised ahead how many diners to expect.

There will be lots more information coming to you in plenty of time for to make a decision. Members of the planning group whose names are listed below are very happy to answer questions. Please don't hesitate to talk to any one of us.

Michele Ashby (232-3473), Brenda Botterill (867-1095), Pamela Cunningham (863-0366), Joyce Hilling (863-5881), Doug Hunter (863-6737), Mike Redden (863-5017), Joyce Stephens (863-1580).

Seniors Walk Antigonish Landing

On May 18th, 14 members of the Seniors Fellowship headed out to Antigonish Landing and met with Bart Wainwright and thoroughly enjoyed a gentle stroll, stopping to see the various plants and trees that were pointed out by Bart. He also pointed out where there were foundations for homes that were once built on this stretch of the Landing. A delicious lunch was enjoyed back at the Church.



St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish • 863-2001
st.james@ns.sympatico.ca • www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm

Ralph Webber M&S *continued from page 3*

Pam Harrison, gifting officer for the United Church in the Maritimes, was the guest speaker for the first service and was instrumental in suggesting other speakers from groups and ministries connected to the M&S fund. She knew Ralph personally from their work with the Atlantic Salmon Federation and thought it was an innovative idea to link education about the work of the church to a service honoring Ralph's ministry. Over the past ten years a variety of guest speakers, has served to broaden our understanding of aid work that is carried out both locally and internationally as a result of our donations.

Pam Harrison returned as guest speaker this year, giving us an informative presentation of the work of M&S in Nova Scotia. She shared some emotional stories of people who have benefited through our gifts to the Fund and gave us an uplifting picture of lives changed as a result.

Special offering envelopes used for the service depict a fishing village to celebrate Ralph's Newfoundland roots and his famous love of salmon fishing. This years' offering was an impressive \$2,544.00, a tribute to Rev. Webber and recognition of the importance of the work made possible by the M&S Fund.

A potluck lunch followed the service and gave the congregation an opportunity to celebrate together and reflect on the important work that continues at St. James. Ralph Webber Mission and Service Sunday honors the life of Rev. Webber and serves as a reminder that we touch many lives as we carry out the work of the gospel in very tangible ways.



Pam Harrison, guest speaker for the Ralph Webber M&S Sunday, chats with members of the congregation as the reception following the service.



Draft Capital Campaign • June 2001

The Capital Campaign Committee presented the next stage of the campaign and its recommendations to a congregational meeting on May 15th 2011, following service.

The following is a very brief summary of the report. Full copies are available from the office, or from the chair at bdmacleod@macleodgroup.ca

The three areas of focus included prioritizing the various aspects of the project, pricing the different sections of the work, and communicating the reasoning behind each aspect of the project. Series of seven priorities was developed. They include 1. Upgrades to the existing utilities, (heat, lights, etc.), 2. Kitchen/hall/storage upgrade, (including raising the hall floor), 3. Stage /storage upgrades, 4. CE building/office upgrades, 5. Sanctuary upgrades, (including the choir loft), 6. Atrium and 7. Kitchen as a separate addition.

Accessibility and privacy were to be considered in all aspects of the development, including:

1. Ramps, 2. Restrooms, 3. Reasonable accessibility to all ground level parts of the building, and 4. Traffic flow.

Detailed reasoning why the congregation supported each aspect of the project was reported and can be seen in the larger report. An overall budget was also presented and is available in the report.

Then the committee presented a summary of the funding options and the order of priority. These included a fund raising campaign using a professional firm to guide the process. We also looked at the possible use of some monies invested at present by the congregation, the idea of a debenture system where members could loan money to the congregation, and finally a mortgage which would secure funds from Maritime Conference which provides funds through Maritime Conference Financial Services. The option of using a charter bank was also presented.

It is recommended that we move in the following phases to complete this plan:

Direct the Design Consultants (Archibald & Fraser, Architects) to refine the detail of the overall plan and refine budgets/pricing using the agreed upon priorities, come back to the congregation for approval.

Proceed with and complete the fundraising with a professional consultant. Come back to the congregation for approval of the work plan.

Upon completion of the fundraising, and if approved by the congregation, begin construction in stages. This will ensure that if there are overruns, they will be manageable.

The committee asked the congregation to accept the first recommendation, and agreed to complete the work outlined there and return to discuss the remaining recommendations when the first was completed. This plan would make it possible to have more cost information available to help with the next decision along the path.

Please contact the chair, Rev. Smith, or any member of the committee if you wish to discuss the committee work to date.

Respectfully submitted

Brian MacLeod
Chair



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 5 Issue 2 • June 2011

Behind the Scenes

If you have ever joined in the Coffee Hour after Sunday services, enjoyed one or more of our potluck lunches throughout the year, or attended any of the 85th. Anniversary events in 2011, you have the members of the Congregational Life and Hospitality Committee to thank.

A group of dedicated individuals act as hosts for many of the social activities that we are all invited to attend throughout the year. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide us with activities that serve to welcome new members to St. James and provide us with opportunities to interact outside of the Sunday services.

Mike Redden, acting Chair of the Committee and Co-coordinator of the Coffee Hour leads a committee consisting of Laura Reddick, Mary MacLean, Barbara Gardiner, Judy McCarron and Emily Fox. As coordinator of the Coffee Hour he recruits a large number of volunteers from the congregation to organize one or more of the coffee hours which take place every Sunday including the summer months. Many volunteers serve to make the task easier.

Mike has been attending St. James for about six years and aside from his involvement in Congregational Life and Hospitality he is a member of the Men's Club and Council. He also derives a great deal of pleasure from his community involvement in the Harbour Players Dinner Theatre.

Laura, Mary and Barbara are dedicated members of the UCW and are busy with any number of other duties in the church, from Council to Senior's Club and more. They are three of the most devoted members of the congregation and are faithful to helping wherever and whenever they can. You can read about their contributions to the life of St. James in Behind the Scenes in previous Connections.

Judy McCarron has brought her gifts as a teacher to the Sunday school where she has taught for more than twenty-five years. Judy and her husband, Jerome, have lived on a farm in North Grant for thirty years raising two sons and a daughter. One son is an RCMP officer in Alberta and their daughter is in Ontario. They each have two children. Their youngest son, John, who lives in Truro will be married on Thanksgiving weekend. Judy continues as a substitute teacher in Maryvale where she says she knows all of the children and they know her well.

Emily Fox sees herself as a member of the team, helping where she can at any function in the church. She can often be found in the church kitchen as she volunteers her time at many events. She loves the feeling of family here at St. James and although she is relatively new to the Antigonish area she has made many friends since moving from Ontario.

The group has not confined their hospitality to the members of St. James as they welcomed the congregation of St. Paul's Anglican church at a reception after our annual shared services, hosted the opening of the Highland Games in July of last year and a Levee on January 2, 2011 which was open to the community and concluded the 85th. Anniversary year of the United Church of Canada.

If you have enjoyed any of these events in our church take the opportunity to thank any of these individuals. If you would like to help by volunteering your time and talent to any of the events you would be most welcome.



Ready for fishing at the First Family Fun Day 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Make note of these special dates:

September 11 • Sunday School Registration

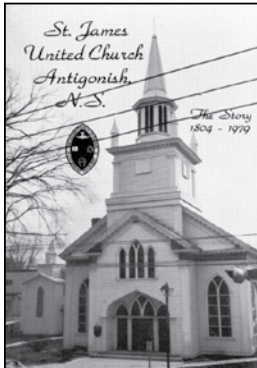
September 25 • Coady Service and Reception
A celebration of the 2011 International Students attending the Coady Institute. A potluck lunch and entertainment will give us an opportunity to welcome them to our community.

October 16 • Guess Who's Coming To Dinner
This annual event is always fun.

Our mission arises from Jesus' words:

Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy and love others as well as you love yourself

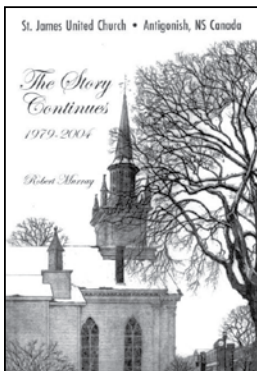
Mark 12:29-31 – The Message Bible



The Story 1804-1979

Can be purchased through the church office.

Written by: Jessie Baxter



The Story Continues 1979-2004

Can be purchased through the church office.

Written by: Robert Murray

Celebration for Rev. Bonnie Fraser



The members of the St. James Prayer Shawl Ministry presented Bonnie with a lovely prayer shawl as a memento of her ordination in the United Church of Canada. The congregation of St. James commemorated this important event with a service of celebration and reception on June 12th. Bonnie will embark on the next part of her faith journey as she takes up her new position in the pastoral charge of Hopewell, Eureka, East River at the beginning of July.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Beware- the Session will know where you've gone

(An excerpt from the Session Minutes of St. James Presbyterian Church January 26, 1877)

It being a matter of public report that Hugh Cameron Elder, notwithstanding the assurance to the contrary he gave the Session on a former occasion, has lately been to a public hall where he spent most of the night, and also partook of intoxicating liquors; the Clerk was instructed to write Mr. Cameron to ascertain if this report be true and to request his attendance at next meeting of Session on the 9th day of Feb. 1877 at 2 o'clock pm.

(An excerpt from the Session Minutes of St James Presbyterian Church Feb. 23, 1877)

Mr. Hugh Cameron made explanations with regards to his being at a ball at Roman's house, dancing there and partaking of intoxicating drinks. Mr. Cameron stated that he and Mrs. Cameron had been invited by Mr. Roman to tea and that they had no idea that there was to be a dance. He acknowledged that he had danced and partook of intoxicating drinks and felt it had been many and very sorry for it and assured the Session that it would be the last time that he would act so inconsistently with his office.

Keep it to Yourself

(An excerpt from the Session Minutes of St. James Presbyterian Church Jan. 13, 1877)

The Clerk brought to the notice of the Session that the business transacted in the Session was reported outside almost as soon as the session closed. Several members of Session spoke in disappointing terms of the practice just stated. When it was moved and seconded that the Moderator of Session be respectfully authorized in future, on the complaint of any member of Session of the continuance of such practice, to put the question to each member of Session as to whether or not he was guilty of revealing anything out of Session to any one, the motion passed unanimously. Closed with prayer.

St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish • 863-2001
st.james@ns.sympatico.ca • www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm