



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 5 Issue 3 • Fall 2011

"...God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22b-23

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have often said that September is the start of a new year. While the calendar says we are continuing 2011, the truth is that we are not simply resuming what we paused in the summer but we are beginning anew in the fall. The arrival of September starts new classes in school, new programs in the community, and signals the return to a more normal work routine. The same can be said for our life at St. James.

After the quieter days of July and August, Sunday School classes and groups and activities begin again and by the time we reach October things are well underway. While it may seem strange to think that we start the year in the fall the truth is that in the church that awareness it is a reminder of the gospel that we celebrate each Sunday. We sing of the fresh start God gives to us by grace and we pray for new beginnings through God's mercy and love.

Each and every day we look to move from where we have been to something new, not based upon what the calendar or any outside force tells us, but through the ability of God who has created the world to continue to bring about new possibilities and life within and around us. So as activities and groups get underway this fall, let us be open to the understanding that with each new season, with each new day, comes the promise and potential of a renewed and restored life for us and our community.

Let us work together not simply to do what we have always done but to begin what God calls us to do and be this new season. Indeed our calling as a church may be to continue doing some things that we have done before but it may also include new opportunities to live and serve and grow in faith and in love. May God continue to bless us in our families and our church.

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

Social Justice Highlights

The St. James Social Justice Committee is preparing for another busy year ahead. The new edition of The Antigonish Gift Book will be launched in mid-November. This year's booklet will feature 10 local organizations that work with people in our community who live in poverty. You are encouraged to consider making a donation to one of these organizations as a gift in someone's name this holiday season.

The Committee wishes to thank the members of the congregation who signed our petition asking for more support for low-income people in our community. The petition was well received by local MLA Maurice Smith, who added his name as a signatory and who has committed to tabling it in the Legislature when the house resumes sitting. For those who would still like to have their voices heard on the issue, we have post cards available at the back of the Church and information on our website about how to email various elected officials.

Our committee is also planning to host speakers during the year as a way to bring stories of important social justice issues to the congregation. If you know of someone who has an important message, particularly one that has an impact on our local community, please let Gina Sampson (863-2428 or gsampson@stfx.ca) or one of the other Social Justice Committee members know.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Make note of these special dates:

Oct 9 • Thanksgiving Service

Sun, Oct 16 • Guess Who's Coming To Dinner
This annual event is always fun • page 5

Nov 6 • Remembrance Service

Sun, Nov 6, 4PM • Halifax Camerata Singers
will perform at St James • page 5

Highland Game Service

St. James hosted the closing service of the 150th. Highland Games on July 17th., followed by a reception in the church hall. The service included special Gaelic music, bagpipes and the wearing of the tartan, all adding to the festive air of another successful week. Our new piano, which everyone seems to agree is a wonderful addition to our church service, was dedicated during the service



The following celebrations took place at
St. James during the Summer of 2011

Wedding

Brian MacLeod Eadie & Gina Suzanne Clifton.

Baptisms

Cayleigh Marie Brow, daughter of
Craig Brow and April MacPherson

Mikelle Mary MacPherson, daughter of
Andrew MacPherson and Tammy Lynn Fry

Danica Lynn MacPherson, daughter of
Andrew MacPherson and Tammy Lynn Fry

Michael Harry Mikkelson, son of
Paul Mikkelson and Benedicta Williams



This summer, Joyce Hilling and Brenda Botterill attended one of Rev. Bonnie Fraser's first services in Hopewell



Beryl MacIntosh gathered together meditators at her house this June. Some have moved away and so it was wonderful to get together again. Now that it's September it's a good time to welcome any who would like to see what we're up to on Tuesday afternoons at 3:45 in the Alaya Ch'an Meditation Centre on 319 Main Street. You can call Beryl, Fran or the Office for more information.



CELEBRATING THE COADY

On Sunday, September 25th. the congregation of St. James welcomed more than twenty five students and staff members of the Coady International Institute to a special service of celebration. Two of the students, Mildred Syabeenzu of Zambia and Violet Faith Soosay from Alberta, Canada took part in the service by reading the scriptures. Christopher Lamontagne of St. Lucia and Salome Nakazwe of Zambia helped take up the offering.

Rev. Peter spoke of the challenges faced by the Coady students as they return to their home countries to use the knowledge gained during their time in Antigonish to help change conditions for their people. Our prayers go with them.

We were blessed by the musical presentation of the choir, an inspirational anthem that fitted perfectly with the theme of the service.

Following the service, we gathered in the hall for a potluck lunch that included a celebration cake, cut and served by Cecilia Naab Ockling from Ghana.

A program of entertainment followed featuring the musical talents of William and Sheumais MacLeod and Emery Van de Weil. The Coady students added their gifts and we were treated to an a capella solo from Mildred Syabeenzu from Zambia and the "Coady St. Paul" group, led by Brenda Thomas-Odlum from Antigua and Barbuda, sang a lovely rendition of Rock of Ages sung in English and Swahili. In closing, they were joined on stage by many of the other students to lift our spirits with a lovely anthem of thanks that inspired a standing ovation from everyone present.

The community of Antigonish and St. James United Church are blessed to have the participants of the Coady International Institute in our community as each year we have a wonderful opportunity to interact and learn from each other.



IN APPRECIATION: The Outreach and Communications Committee produces the Connections newsletter on a quarterly basis in order to help keep the congregation informed, celebrate certain events and take note of upcoming events. The members of the Committee would like to thank everyone who assists us with articles of interest and photographs of interest. We particularly want to thank Ruth Young for the digital layout and design of the newsletter.

The next issue will be out before Christmas. Information on deadlines for submitting content will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Please e-mail your articles prior to the deadline to beryl.publiccover@live.ca



BEHIND THE SCENES Hot Lunches at St. James

The Tuesday Hot Lunch Program at St. James is an important initiative, providing a delicious and nutritious hot meal for many people in the community. This program

began five years ago to answer a need that had been identified for vulnerable people in the area to have a place to go for community support. The program serves a diverse population and a variety of needs. For some the meal is the most substantial and nutritious that they may have for the week. For many who live alone or whose income is limited proper meals are often difficult to plan. For many the social connection is as important as the meal. Seniors, students, families or those on social assistance represent the group that benefit from the food and fellowship.

During the planning meetings for the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of St. James, a need was identified for more involvement in the community. These discussions resulted in the modest beginning of the Tuesday Lunch Program.



*Top: Beryl
Above: Dot
and Anne
Left: Austin
and Marilyn
with the
De Youngs*

Five people took advantage of the first meal but we now serve between 25 and 40 people on a weekly basis.

Five groups of dedicated volunteers (5 – 7 people per group) take turns on a rotating weekly basis to plan and prepare substantial meals consisting of a hot entrée, rolls, desserts and drinks. From stews and casseroles to turkey and roast beef dinners with all the trimmings, the variety is appetizing and appreciated. Four of the groups are members of our congregation here at St. James and the other group, new this fall to the program, are from the local Lion's Club. It takes many people to keep the program running smoothly, some act as leaders for their team, others contribute by making phone calls, still others help to serve the meal or clean up. There are many ways to be part of this rewarding experience.

The Social Justice Committee has produced a brochure that outlines ways that we can donate to our community and the Hot Lunch Program is one of the those ways. The brochures are available in the parlour or the narthex.

There are many in the Antigonish community who recognize the importance of the Hot Meal Program and provide help in the form of cash or merchandise donations. Breamore Co-op Food Market provides a

*Right: Rev. Peter Smith Below:
Lois & Hazel Page 5 top: Jenny;
middle: Beryl and Mary*



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



Behind the Scenes

Hot Lunches *continued from page 4*
discount to help with the purchase of groceries and the Catholic Women's League assisted with a generous cash donation last Christmas.

At first, the program was not offered during the summer months because many of the volunteers were away. The staff of Public Health recognized the importance of providing the meals on a weekly basis all year round, particularly the group working with Men's Health. They approached St. James with the suggestion that they would provide volunteers over the summer so that the meals could be available all year round. For the past two years, there has not been a break in the service.

If you would like to contribute, here are some of the ways that you can help:



- become part of one of the teams providing a meal every five weeks
- help by cooking a meal from time to time
- donate a dessert or rolls as part of the meal
- make a donation of produce such as fresh fruit or vegetables
- save your plastic containers from ice cream, margarine etc. to use for take away meals or storage
- make a cash donation to help defray expenses

There are many involved but here are just a few names of people that you can contact for more information:

Beryl Duggan 863-6874, Joyce Hilling 863-5881, Irene MacLeod 863-5213, Hazel Murray 863-5400, Mavis Murray 863-3179, Betty Webber 863-1301

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner ~ Oct 16, 5 PM

An evening of fellowship, fun and good food - Participants will meet in the church hall at 5 PM, learn who their dinner companions are, and then proceed to the home of their hosts for the evening.



Beryl MacIntosh signs up for Guess Who's Coming To Dinner.

If you are interested in being a part of this fun event speak to one of the members of the Committee: Michelle Ashby, Brenda Botterill, Pamela Cunningham, Joyce Hilling, Doug Hunter, Mike Redden & Joyce Stephen.

Halifax Camerata Singers ~ Nov 6, 4 PM



The Halifax Camerata Singers will perform at St. James. Sponsored by the United Church Women, this award winning choir, under the direction of artistic director Jeff Joudrey, is celebrating their twenty fifth year of choral music. During the 2011-12 season they are acknowledging this important milestone by presenting Requiem to Peace by the 20th. Century composer, Herbert Howless. It will feature the music of Peter-Anthony Togni, Jeff Enns and Timothy Corlis with special guest soloist, bass clarinetist, Jeff Reilly. A reception will follow in the church hall.

Tickets \$20, can be purchased from Barb, Sheila, and Betty or at the door. Anyone interested in assisting with this special afternoon of music is encouraged to contact Barb Gardiner 863-1641, Sheila Davison 863-5734 or Betty Webber at 863-1301.

Sunday School News

Sept. 11th saw the beginning of another Sunday school year. Sunday school teachers/helpers for this year are: Sally van de Weil, Judy McCarron, Linda Penner, Irene MacLeod, Rhonda Semple, Lydia English and Ida Sarty.

Throughout the year, the Sunday school will be involved in various activities as well as taking part in morning worship services. On Oct. 2nd. we will return to the sanctuary to receive communion with the rest of the congregation. Nov. 13th the Sunday school will take responsibility for the morning worship service. Again this year the children will work on a project through World Vision. For this project, the children will save pennies so that they can buy something that will help a third world village. The Sunday school invites the congregation to help us with this project, just save your pennies and either give them to one of the leaders or leave them at the church office. Thanks for your help.

There is always an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us and share in our worship. Speak to Ida or one of the teachers if you have a talent that you would like to share with the Sunday School. We are looking forward to another great year of learning, sharing and growing as we continue on our Christian journey.

St. James Sunday School

THE ANTIGONISH CEMETERY COMPANY

The Antigonish Cemetery Company was established in 1915 by the congregations of St. James Presbyterian Church and St. Paul Anglican Church. The directors of the company have representatives from both congregations and hold an Annual Meeting the first week of April. In recent years, cremation has become more and more prevalent and because of this, two years ago, the company set aside an Urn Garden in the Cemetery. The plot would have a plaque with the pertinent information. We bring this to your attention in case your preference might be to purchase a plot there rather than a full plot in the main cemetery. The price of a plot in the Urn Garden is \$200.00. A single plot in the main cemetery is \$400.00 and \$600.00 for a double plot. For more information you can contact Robert Murray at 863-3179.



Friends visiting Dorothy Muirhead in PEI during Sept included Joyce Hilling and Joan Pearson. Dorothy was in good cheer and very happy to see everyone.

From The Archives

Reprimands by the Session

At a meeting of St. James Presbyterian Session on November 2, 1876 the members of Session agreed that Mr. John A McKeen and Mr. John White, Daniel Murphy and Geo. A Pushie be cited to come before Session on Fri. the 10th instant at 2 o'clock pm to answer to charges of improper conduct towards each other.

(An excerpt from the minutes of the Session on November 10, 1876)

John White and John A. McKeen appeared in answer to a citation and were each heard. It was found that a disagreement existed in their respective statements. When it was agreed between all parties that the case be postponed till Friday 10th day of December next when two witnesses were to be told to testify between them. Daniel Murphy and Geo A. Pushie. case was next taken up and their statements heard respectfully, both having expressed sorrow for their conduct and hoped they would watch more carefully over their passions in the future and having being appropriately admonished by the Moderator and members of the Session they were permitted to retire.

(An excerpt from the minutes of the Session on December 29, 1876)

In pursuance of their appointment, John A MacKean and John White appeared, their case was taken up, each having withdrawn offensive language used on the first occasion towards each other and having mutually forgiven each other amiably and the Session having exhorted and prayed with them, the case was closed.

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