



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

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I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made.

But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.

~ Philippians 3:13 (Message Bible)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Two things strike me this Fall. The first is that I don't ever remember Autumn being this busy. Maybe it's because Hope has started Grade Primary but every minute of the day seems filled with activity. The announcements in our church bulletin are filled with gatherings, meetings, events, and work happening at and through our congregation.

The second thing I've noticed is the beauty of this time of year. While I love the quiet and relaxing days of summer there is an excitement of the church coming to life and the energy in the town and county as school and University begin again for the year. Add that to the colours of the natural world around us and there is nothing quite like this season.

Of course those two things are connected because when we understand the work and witness we undertake as a church, and when we see the importance and meaning of what we do within our lives, then we end up bringing God's kingdom to earth. We share the love and grace of Christ as we sing, as we knit prayer shawls, as we study the Bible, as we gather together for fellowship, and as a result our life together becomes a beautiful part of God's plan and purpose for the world.

May this Fall continue to be both busy and beautiful for you and your family and for us as a congregation and may our work and witness continue to share the love of Christ with those around us.

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



ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY October 23

St. James is celebrating Anniversary Sunday on October 23rd. As part of this happy occasion, there will be the first Info Fair after the service to shine a light on the life and work of St. James. This is your chance to see what is going on and to offer suggestions for the future.

Refreshments will be served at each table to make the browsing even more interesting so please plan on staying. We know you will be impressed and will also enjoy this chance to make yourself heard.

Families picking up their children from Sunday school are encouraged to have a tour through the fair. There will also be a Wish Table for ideas that you have that would enrich our life and fellowship. So please come! Bring a friend, too.



SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A BOOK PROJECT

by Anne Camozzi

Life is a wondrous mystery filled with experiences we cannot explain. Our connections with each other, especially in times of suffering, often offer inexplicable moments of grace. I had one of these moments with a doctor who was dying. He smiled broadly when I delivered the painting I had created for him. "Hold it close," he directed. "Dying people find it hard to focus. Our vision becomes limited to a small sphere around us. I won't see the painting once you hang it up, so please hold it so I can memorize it and meditate on it" and then he said, "you need to find a way to bring your art closer to those suffering or dying."

It was this desire to make my art more accessible, that inspired the creation of my book *Galaxies*. The title of the book, is the name of the painting that appears on the front and back cover. It is a 30" x 30" painting on silk, as is all the art in the book, a "canvas" that allows colour to flow. Art is a powerful tool to distract the mind, while at the same time, feeding the soul. I know this because I have been distracted from my own pain while creating art.

I interviewed patients, medical workers and others about what might work. Encouraged by the interviews, I designed mockups, testing them with people undergoing treatments. The book's unique dimensions were designed to address the need for something easy to hold and carry.



For content, I selected about forty images, knowing I needed only eleven. I left the art on my table for months, moving them around, asking visitors what they liked. This process turned into a life-giving experience. Though winter roared outside and I struggled with physical changes, my dining room table flooded with colour and life, as the book took shape. I knew that the short story *Beyond* - began in 2006 - would be nestled as the book's centrepiece. I wanted to build the paintings around that story and also wrote poetry to draw readers deeper into each piece of art and their lives.

From the beginning *Galaxies* has been a social justice project. I am donating one copy of *Galaxies* for each 20 sold; I am also encouraging people to buy copies to donate to hospitals and hospices or places of care. Copies have already been donated to three libraries in the women's prison in Truro and 8 copies to the Pictou Antigonish library system. My hope is that *Galaxies*, will help distract people from pain and suffering (whether patients, families, caregivers or healers), while allowing them to feel part of something bigger than themselves. It is also a book for art lovers, even children, who are not suffering, but seeking serenity even a little whimsy, or just enjoyment of art. I hope it brings the peace and joy it was meant to share. If anyone knows of an organization or individual, who would benefit from a donated copy, please email me at camozziartstudio@gmail.com. For more information about *Galaxies*, please visit www.annecamozzi.com

Prayer Shawls Ministry

What is a prayer shawl and what is it that makes it different from an ordinary shawl?



To those who are unfamiliar with the ministry these are questions that might be asked. The making of a prayer shawl is more than just knitting or crocheting a pretty shawl and giving it to someone you know as a gift. First and foremost the shawls are created in prayer and given with prayer. As the stitches are made the knitter can pray for the person who will be receiving the shawl – whether known or unknown. When completed the shawl is brought to our monthly meeting and the ladies form a circle and place their hands on the shawl or in the case when there is more than one shawl, then many fingers manage to touch each shawl and a prayer is given by each one in the circle, and this time is known as the blessing of the shawls. Then on a Sunday the shawls are brought forward by the members of the ministry and they are dedicated by the minister.

Prayer is what makes these shawls so special. They are never sold and they are given in the name of The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. James United Church and not in the name of the individual who made the shawl. A card with an enclosed prayer is given with the shawl.

At present we have eight members who attend the meetings and two who knit at home. We meet on the last Monday of the month from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. and enjoy a time of fellowship as well as doing our knitting or crocheting. We would be pleased to receive names of people who would benefit from the receiving of a shawl. They may be from another denomination, local or otherwise. If interested in belonging to this ministry you are most welcome to join us. You may contact Mavis at 863-3179.

Sunday School Start-Up

Our Sunday school season for 2016 - 2017 began September 11th. We look forward to spending time on Sunday mornings with all our returning friends and are blessed to have some new faces joining us. Once again we will be using the Whole People of God curriculum.

We look forward to another year when we get to spend time Sunday mornings learning and growing together as we continue to travel on our Christian faith journey, listening to stories, singing songs, praying together, sharing in laughter, and sharing our time and talents on special occasions with the rest of the congregation.

As always we thank the congregation for their continued love and support. We will keep you posted on upcoming special Sunday school news and events.

St. James Sunday School

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT FUND

The Spirit Enrichment Fund provides financial support for new experiences and Christian growth. It provides financial support to individuals and/or families who wish to attend church-sponsored events. The general aim of this fund is to stimulate more involvement and interest in enriching our faith by providing access to experiences and resources outside our church and congregation.

Grants from the fund are intended for those who attend St. James United Church, Antigonish. The fund will be applied to registration fees but may also be used to cover other costs related to the event. Application forms are available at the church office.

For more information contact:
idasarty@stjamesuc.com

Social Enterprise in Guatemala

On Tuesday Oct. 4th Carlos Marroquin, innovator and leader in Appropriate Technology Development and owner of Bici-Tec, a social enterprise in Guatemala, spoke to interested people from the congregation and the town about his more than 15 years of experience designing bicimáquinas, pedal-powered machines, within the context of rural, indigenous Guatemala. His school teaches students from all over the world how to design and build these machines. The event was hosted by the UCW and was free to all, although donations were solicited to help cover travel costs.



Seniors Fellowship

The Senior Fellowship group at St. James was formed on September 18, 2008 with eighteen inaugural members. At that time it was agreed that we would meet in the parlour from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month except for July and August, and the programs would be designed for people 55 years or older. It was agreed that a \$1.00 offering would be collected from each member in attendance at a meeting. These funds have accumulated over the past number of years and we have been able to make contributions to the VON, Sleeping Children Around the World, and the L'Arche Summer Program.

Our programs have included presentations by various members of the congregation about their trips and the group's reminisces of their childhood and work experiences. We have also invited speakers from community groups relating to health and care around the home as well as people from within the community with a story to tell. On occasion we have journeyed to restaurants in Guysborough, Sherbrooke, Cape Breton, and Pictou Co. for lunch. The group has gone bowling on three occasions and has had several afternoons of cribbage and scrabble. We have enjoyed pot luck lunches, usually in June and/or September. Our afternoon gatherings conclude with tea and sweets provided by members of the group on a rotating basis. Our average attendance is 15 but we would welcome all members of the congregation in this age group to come and join us in our enjoyment of fun, food, and fellowship along with some interesting presentations and the occasional trip.



Meditation Group

The Meditation Group has been together since 1994 and continues to attract people of all backgrounds and ages. The common bond is a desire to find some growth through stillness. It is not an 'in group' and there is nothing complex or mysterious about our practice. It is just a matter of coming to the group and learning. We belong to the larger World Christian Meditation Centre which supplies us with materials and support. Our group meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at St. James. You can call 902 863 3546 for more information. Feel free to give it a try.

ANTIGONISH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 21-23, 2016

Don't miss the 10th annual Antigonish International Film Festival (AIFF) bringing you the best documentaries from around the world. Over these ten years the festival has shown more than 300 films to an audience of over 14,300. AIFF has made a difference in our community, encouraging efforts to confront such issues as climate change, availability of local food, the connections between art and health, needs of refugees and indigenous issues. This year's festival is no exception, showcasing the types of films you have come to expect: award-winning, hard-hitting, challenging and yet heart warming and beautiful.

The St. James Social Justice Committee is please to sponsor ANGRY INUK. This film examines issues around Inuit hunters in remote communities in the high arctic who are negatively affected by animal rights groups protesting against the Canadian seal hunt. Anti-seal hunting campaigns have attracted high profile supporters, and with them, hefty financial contributions. How does a culture which exercises understated anger and finds peaceful ways to resolve conflict, compete with activist groups aggressively cultivating anti-sealing sentiment to underwrite their other causes?

We invite you to watch this film and others and join the celebration as we wish AIFF a HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY, and many more. For more information or to see a list of films visit <http://www.antigonishfilmfest.org>.

A community dinner will be held in our church hall, Sat. Oct. 22nd. Hall opens at 5:30 pm, dinner served 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 at Lyghtesome Gallery or email aiffdinner@lyghtesome.ns.ca to reserve your ticket.



10th annual
Antigonish International
2016
film festival
October 21 - 23
33 award winning documentaries

Cineplex Theatre
People's Place Library
Town Council Chambers
Sunday afternoon special feature *Human*
STFX Nicholson Hall 151

FESTIVAL PASSES
\$15 regular / \$5 student, unwaged
AIFF website: antigonishfilmfest.org
Lyghtesome Gallery, 166 Main Street
People's Place Library, 283 Main Street

COMMUNITY DINNER
Saturday, October 22
St. James United Church Hall
197 Main Street
catered by and a fundraiser for
Cultural Connections Antigonish
open 5:30 pm, dinner served at 6:30 pm
Tickets \$20: AIFF website, Lyghtesome Gallery

antigonishfilmfest.org 

 

Adopt-A-Highway Fall Clean Up

Perfect weather smiled on our happy group on Saturday September 24th as we gathered twenty bags of garbage and two bags of refundables at “our” interchange. It made for light work and lots of easy banter during the two hours that we spent on this environmentally worthwhile project.

This time our team consisted of: Sarah Armstrong, Chad Brazier, Barb deMarsh, Hope Graham and Tim Hinds. Once again we were delighted to have assistance from two Tim Hortons employees – Sheena MacDonald and Ashley Fullerton. As always we followed up with snacks and distribution of some Adopt-A-Highway swag.

We’ll be happy to welcome both experienced and new volunteers when we conduct our next clean-up in the spring. In the meantime, please help educate others about the benefits of a litter free environment!

On September 21st Tim and I had the opportunity to attend an Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Recognition Awards Luncheon in Truro, hosted by divertNS. Numerous awards were presented including:

- Largest Group – 55 volunteers (Uniacke)
- Smallest Group – 1 volunteer (near Tatamagouche)
- Longest Serving Group – 19 years
- Outstanding Service Group – Lions, who have been involved with AAH for many years

• Most Helpful DOTIR Staff – although he didn’t win, Antigonish’s very own Mike MacPherson was amongst the “runners up”

The keynote speaker for the event was Silver Donald Cameron, noted activist and author. He gave an excellent presentation. His most recent book is *Warrior Lawyers* and features individuals who use the law to defend environmental rights. What I enjoyed most were the David and Goliath stories that make you understand that it is possible for one person to effect real change. In his books, the characters you encounter range from Filipino lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr (known for authoring the “Oposa Doctrine” – the principle of intergenerational environmental responsibility); to Irish author Mark Boyle (“The Moneyless Man” known for having lived without using money for the past eight years); to UK based Polly Higgins (an international lawyer who submitted a proposal to the UN to include “Ecocide” as a crime against peace). If you’re interested in learning more, do purchase or borrow one of Cameron’s books from the library, or check out greenrights.com or thegreeninterview.com on line. The right to breathe. The right to clean water. The right to wholesome food. We shouldn’t need to fight for these!

Michèle Ashby

“The degrees of separation between the consumer and the consumed have increased so much that we’re completely unaware of the levels of destruction and suffering embodied in the stuff we buy.”

Mark Boyle, *The Moneyless Man*



Bell Choir

It's time to fall back into bell ringing! We are just two weeks into a new year of ringing and the bell choir is looking forward to playing in church. It will be another busy year, with preparations for the Christmas season to begin soon and the possibility of another bell festival in the spring. We are hoping to experiment with a new ringing technique termed 'the singing bell', so listen for it in the next couple of months.

CALLING ALL MEN

The members of St. James Men's Club would like to see more men of the congregation join us at our monthly meetings. These meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. during the fall and winter months, and include a supper followed by any business and a special speaker. Most nights the meetings are over by 8:00. These suppers are prepared (with the help of some wives) and served by three volunteers for each meeting. There is a \$5.00 charge for the suppers which is a steal for any meal these days.

The only fund raiser for the club is the Lobster Dinner in March which would not be successful without the continued support of the UCW and other members of the congregation. With the profit from this event we cover the costs of repairs to the mower and snow blower, help in the purchase of needed supplies and equipment, and with the UCW contribute to the Regional School Bursary, the general funds of the church, and in recent years the church renovations. All of this support would disappear if the Men's Club ceased to exist in this congregation.

Many of our members are getting older and would appreciate having some younger men join us to insure the continuation of this group, which has been in existence since the early 1950s. We hope many of you will consider joining us in this time of fellowship. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 24th.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Session met on June 25, 1864 in the Vestry and was constituted by the Moderator. Present was the Moderator, Messers Smith, MacDonald, Grant, Burnside, Pushie & Trotter.

The Moderator stated that Messers Alex Monroe, Sen. V. Donald Cameron, P. Foran have made application for admission to the Communion of the Church which was agreed to unanimously.

It was resolved that the Communicants stand up during the time of asking the Blessing on the elements.

It was also resolved that the intermission of Divine Service be fifteen minutes instead of half an hour as formerly to suit members of the Congregation from a distance.

The meeting was then closed by prayer by Mr. Grant.

Robt. Trotter, S. Clerk

Thomas Downie, Moderstor

The Session met in the Church on July 18, 1864 and was constituted by the Moderator. Present a full meeting of the Session.

The Moderator brought before the Session the subject of the Ministers Widow Fund and collectors were appointed to collect subscriptions for aid of it.

It was agreed that Mr. Alex Chisholm get Baptism for his child at a prayer meeting to be held in his own home

Also that Mr. Henry Burnside get his child baptized by coming before the Session at their next meeting and confessing his guilt and submitting to the rules of the Church.

It was also resolved that the Church will not be given to Ministers of other Denominations without the consent of the Session.

Mr. Smith reported having had a conversation with Mr. Zephaniah Williams respecting the ordinances of baptism. (I believe this would be a relative of Scott Williams). The meeting was then closed by the Moderator with the Blessing.

Robt. Trotter S. Clerk

Thomas Downie, Moderator

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee at St. James is a small but dedicated group of people committed to social justice issues, such as poverty reduction and climate change. We think globally and act locally. Our activities include but are not limited to:

Printing and distributing the very popular Antigonish Gift Book as an alternative to buying gifts. The Gift Book encourages donations to local non-profit charities dedicated to front line poverty reduction (Community Food Bank, Emergency Fuel

THE CHOIR CORNER:

New Members Welcome

If you are interested in worshipping God through song, please consider joining our choirs for their weekly rehearsals as they prepare anthems of praise for Sunday services.

MORE VOICES—soprano, alto, tenor and bass—are all welcome at our Senior Choir practices which are held on Thursday evenings from six-thirty to seven-thirty. With Advent and Christmas services fast approaching, we would be happy to have extra voices in the choir loft to help with music for this special season.

There is also a Women's Chorus which rehearses just ahead of Senior Choir at six o'clock on Thursdays ...ladies come along and give it a try!

This year, our Men's Choir will meet ahead of church on designated Sundays to rehearse an anthem for that week's ministry of music. Their first "sing" this fall will be at the Anniversary service on October 23rd. Men's Choir too will be pleased to be joined by new (or not-so-new!) voices.

Please visit the Choir Corner after church on the 23rd where sign-up sheets will be available on the choir table. ...hoping we will see you there and that we can unite our voices in song and praise.

Fund, VON, Kids First, St Vincent de Paul, etc.)

Leading and participating in twice yearly Adopt-A-Highway cleanups to beautify our community and protect the environment.

Working cooperatively this year to develop a display on plastic reduction. This display has gone to different community venues including the local high school, Earth Day celebrations and the Municipal Office. And a newly formed offshoot committee (RAP - Reduce Antigonish Plastics) plans to continue working on water bottle reduction, plastic bag reduction and other projects aimed at eliminating as much unnecessary plastic as possible from our community.

Sponsoring relevant films at the Antigonish International Film Festival in keeping with social justice issues important to the mission of the church. Liaising and sharing with other social justice groups in the community and promoting their projects. Writing Social Justice comments (for example energy reduction tips) for the church bulletin and doing "Minutes for Social Justice" during services to highlight specific occasions. Planning, organizing and assisting in annual Earth Day worship services. Promoting, supporting and helping to educate others about a variety of important social justice causes. Formulating, distributing and forwarding petitions on appropriate topics (international Canadian mining, women's plight in the Democratic Republic of Congo, etc) to politicians at all three government levels. Producing and distributing an annual Social Justice Calendar to encourage action and prayer on special global days of awareness. Maintaining an informal GREEN TEAM that is available to advise the church community about environmental issues and good practices; and conducting informal audits dealing with the environmental practices of our church operations.

The Social Justice Committee is always looking for new members. We meet mostly by Internet and telephone or in brief meetings after church. We welcome people from outside our church community to join our group.

THE COMMUNITY HOT MEAL PROGRAM

On October 23, 2016 at 7pm a concert featuring local singers and dancers will be held at St. James to support the ongoing efforts of our Community Hot Meal Program which takes place in our hall. Admission will be by donation and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the performances and help support this out reach project.

What is the Community Hot Meal Program?

The Community Hot Meal Program is a hot nutritious meal which is served at the hall at St. James for anyone who needs it. The meals are served on Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11 am.

How long has it been going on?

The Tuesday Hot Meal started in 2004 as an Anniversary Project of St. James and over the years has always included support and help from the community. In 2014, with the addition of teams from local business and area churches, we were able to add a Thursday meal to what is offered.

How many meals get served?

Currently we are serving between 40 and 60 people each time the meal is offered. Last year over 3500 meals were served through this program and we expect to serve even more meals this year.

Who pays for the meals?

All the food is prepared and served by volunteers. Groceries are purchased from local businesses using funds donated for that purpose. Last year over \$9000 was spent in the area to provide the meals which are offered.

Who serves the meal?

Currently there are fifteen different teams of volunteers who make sure the meal is prepared and served. These teams come from churches in the area, community groups, service clubs, local businesses and interested individuals.

Who are some of the groups involved?

Through the year there are five teams St. James United Church, and teams from St. Mary's Parish,

St. Ninian's Parish, Success and Planing, Chamber of Commerce/Naomi Society, Bergengren Credit Union, RCMP, Knights of Columbus, Crime Prevention Committee, Eleanor Brosha, and the Lions Club.

In the summer our teams of volunteers are organized by the Men's Health Centre and in the past have included groups from Addiction Services, Gasha, Men's Health Center, St. Ninian's Youth Group, Antigonish Transit, and local Doctor's Offices.

How can I support the effort?

The food and supplies are purchased from local stores through donations which are administered through St. James. Any donation marked for Hot Meal is directed towards this effort and can be dropped off or mailed to St. James at anytime. If you are interested in volunteering to work in the kitchen or to serve please call the church (902-863-2001) or drop by on Tuesday or Thursday and speak to one of the team organizers.

Quilt Show

The sanctuary of St. James United was shown off to its best advantage on Sept. 23rd and 24th when the Highland Quilt Guild held their bi-annual quilt show. Everyone is in agreement that the renovated sanctuary is the ideal location for this event.



Changes in the United Church of Canada A faq sheet about “Remits”

The St. James Church Council has asked that interested persons gather after church on October 16, 2016 in the hall to discuss the Remits which have been put to the United Church by the 42nd General Council. The meeting will be a chance for the people of St. James to get information about what is happening in the wider United Church and have some discussion in order to help guide the response the Council will make to these questions.

What is a Remit?

The United Church of Canada was formed in 1925 after an agreement was struck between the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists. That agreement was enshrined into law through an act of Parliament known as the United Church of Canada Act. Any changes made to that Act require consultation with the wider church in a process known as a remit.

A remit is when the General Council asks for Congregations or Presbyteries (or sometimes both depending on the question) for permission to change the foundational rules of the church (basically our constitution).

What happens in a Remit?

The General Council sends out the questions to the wider church along with study materials. The parts of the church being asked to vote then reply by a set date. If a majority of those being asked vote yes then the change is made. If a majority vote no then the change is not made.

What is being asked this time?

There are four different questions being asked which St. James Church Council has asked for congregational input. The first is on the structure of the United Church, the second on the elimination of transfer and settlement, the third on the creation of an Office of Vocation, and the fourth is on funding the new structure. The questions themselves are straightforward and simple but why they are being

asked and what they will mean for us is a bit more complicated. There is a fifth question which does not require a response until 2018 so we are not discussing it at this time.

REMIT 1: THREE COUNCIL MODEL

What does that mean?

In the United Church we function via four councils (in the church we often call them courts). To use our congregation as an example:

- 1) Locally at St. James we have a Church Council,
- 2) and then when we group together a number of different churches we have a Presbytery. We are in Pictou Presbytery which includes all the United Churches from Antigonish to Scotsburn in Pictou County.
- 3) When we group together Presbyteries we have a Conference. We are part of the Maritime Conference which takes in all the United Churches in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, part of Quebec, and includes the Wesleyan Synod of Bermuda.
- 4) and when we put the Conferences together we have the General Council.

The first question from the General Council is asking for us to reduce the Councils so that there will still be one locally, there will be one in a region, and then one for the denomination.

Why make the change?

The request for change has come about for two reasons. The first is that it is harder and harder to find enough people to make the current structure function effectively. The second is that our current structure is costly.

Will moving from four courts to three save us money? Will it be easier on volunteers and make things more efficient?

There is no simple answer. Certainly in the short term there may be extra expense and more work making the new structure work. We certainly experienced that when we moved from the Official Board to Church Council structure here at St. James when Rev. Ken was with us. The hope is that it will be cheaper and more efficient. Honestly though only time will tell.

Where are the details?

The description of what each council will be responsible for and how they will interrelate are in a package available at the back of the church and online at www.gc42.ca/remits The remits don't include some details (such as the size the Regional Councils will encompass) because if the church chooses to move in this direction then there will be some work to iron out the details.

REMIT 2: ELIMINATION OF TRANSFER AND SETTLEMENT

What does that mean?

A long time ago when a minister was ordained or commissioned in the church they were sent to serve in a congregation which had asked for a minister through a process called transfer and settlement. After serving a minimum of three years in their "settlement charge" the minister was then free to negotiate going to a new church.

A number of years ago the United Church held a remit and chose to make the transfer and settlement process optional and allowed new ministers to negotiate going to their first church. Since that time the transfer and settlement process has gone unused but the structure to make it happen is still in place within the Conferences and the General Council.

Where are the details?

There really aren't any. The exact wording of the remit is in the package at the back of the church and online at <http://www.GC42.ca/remits>. www.gc42.ca/remits

REMIT 3: OFFICE OF VOCATION

What does that mean?

The proposal is to create an Office of Vocation within the church to look after the accreditation, professional development, oversight, discipline, and support of Ministers in the church.

What happens now?

The current responsibilities are done in different places of the church. Right now Presbytery is responsible for oversight and discipline of ministers as well as

the supervision of student ministers, Conference is responsible for the support, accreditation, and interviews for student ministers as well as making sure that ministers maintain standards. General Council is responsible for standards and practises of ministers as well as processes for candidates and reception of ministers joining us from other churches. Sometimes this division of responsibilities works well and other times it does not.

Where are the details?

The exact wording of the remit and the description of what the Office of Vocation will look like is in the package at the back of the church and online at www.gc42.ca/remits

REMIT 4: FUNDING A NEW MODEL

What does this mean?

The Remit asks to make all the money going to run the denomination come via allocations.

How is that any different than what is happening now?

Currently Presbytery and Conference get their funds though allocations from Congregations (i.e. Together we decide how much money they need to run and congregations pay that amount). The General Council gets its money from the Mission and Service Fund, Bequests, Investments, and direct donations.

The hope is that with allocations funding the structure of the wider church there will be more transparency and it will help the different parts of the church live within their means.

How much will this cost us?

The figure being mentioned is 4.5% of our total funds raised each year. That would be an increase for us at St. James but the expectation is that some of the funds currently being donated to Mission and Service (because remember some of that money goes to run the General Council Offices) will be redirected to the congregation to make up the difference.

Where are the details?

The exact wording of the remit and the description of the new funding model is in the package at the back of the church and online at www.gc42.ca/remits



Fundraising through gift cards

Perhaps you have heard Randy Lauff or me stand up before the service and announce something about Fundscrip. What's going on? We are referring to a system of raising money for St. James by purchasing store gift cards through a company called Fundscrip.

It works by individuals buying gift cards through St. James for specific retailers. The retailers then give St. James a percentage of the value of the gift card. For example, Sobeys offers a 3% discount, so that if you buy a \$100 gift card, St. James receives \$3. That donation to St. James costs you nothing; you paid \$100 and have received a gift card worth \$100. The discount equals the amount Sobeys would have paid Visa.

Randy or I place the orders on the Fundscrip web site on the first Sunday of the month. The cards are delivered via courier the following Friday for distribution to the congregation the second Sunday of the month. You may submit the order to either of us on any Sunday, or you may leave the order in the church office, at your convenience. There are forms that are best used for requesting gift cards pinned to the bulletin board outside the sanctuary and in the church office. The form lists the participating retailers and the size of the discount paid to St. James.

The cards have no expiry date. If you use a card worth \$100 to pay for groceries worth \$75 on one shopping trip, you will have \$25 left to set against your next shopping trip. The cards are available in a range of denominations that vary from retailer to retailer, but range from \$25 to \$250. Some cards can be used at more than one retailer, if the retailer owns other businesses. For example, a Superstore card can be used at its gas station.

If you collect air miles or other rewards such as optimum points or PC points, they are still available when you use the gift card. However you won't

receive and benefits associated with use of your credit card.

Obviously the amount raised from the use of gift cards depends on how many cards the congregation buys. October resulted in large orders and earnings of over \$150 for St. James. Christmas is coming, and people may want to buy cards as gifts. My son-in-law enjoys a steak at a restaurant that pays a discount of 5%. My daughter likes to buy clothes at a shop that pays a 7% discount.

Fundscrip is the name of the company that mediates between St. James and the retailers. It is a privately owned company based in Montreal that has been involved in this business since 2003 and appears to be widely trusted. It is not a charity. I believe its income derives from earnings on the money it holds between the purchase of cards through St. James and the transfer of the funds to the retailers.

So, think about your spending habits and about the gift giving coming up. Buying gift cards through St. James is a great way to contribute to the church at no cost and very little effort.



“Work is life. You interact with your new community and develop ideas and skills.”

~ Tareq Hadhad

A BETTER USE OF ASSETS

Antigonish is a difficult town to be poor in. Low cost housing is scarce, reasonably-priced rentals are hard to come by, and landlords are usually able to receive more than fair market value for their houses from university students who would rather live independently than on campus.

But somewhere out there is a house. Maybe the owner has moved to a retirement apartment and is hoping to sell the place when the market picks up a bit. Perhaps the owner has passed on and the family hasn't yet decided whether to keep the house or not. Or possibly the owner is holding onto the house even though he isn't living in it in the hope that his grown children will want a place of their own some day.

And so this house is empty, and as long as it's empty it's costing the owner tax and upkeep money and deteriorating instead of appreciating because it's standing alone, under-heated and unsupervised.

This is the house that SAFE would like to borrow for a minimum of one year, The Board of Directors



The Hadhads, the first Syrian refugee family to arrive in Antigonish, hosted the official opening of their *PEACE BY CHOCOLATE* production building August, 10. Here, Assam Hadhad and his son, Tareq, conduct the traditional ribbon cutting. Assam Hadhad was a chocolate maker in Damascus before he lost everything to war.

of SAFE (Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace) would like to have this house for a limited period of time, and in exchange for the house SAFE will provide the manpower to resolve the issues the house may have developed while it has been standing alone and neglected.

All you, as the owner of the house, have to do is to allow SAFE to borrow your empty house for 18 - 24 months so that we can place a refugee family inside. It won't be forever, just until the refugee family is able to begin work. And for your trouble SAFE will take over the maintenance costs of this house for as long as you'll allow us to use it.

Would you like more information? Do you have questions you'd like to ask before you offer your house to SAFE for a limited time? Bronwen Cooke or Brenda Rose would be glad to steer you to the SAFE organizing committee so that the details of this temporary loan can be discussed.

General UCW News

First fall meeting was held on Tuesday, October 4th. The members enjoyed the speaker Carlos Marroquin who shared his leadership experiences with Bici-Tec, a social enterprise in Guatemala.

Please note that the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM is the usual meeting time with an average of 4-5 meetings per year. New members are welcomed--watch the church bulletin for actual dates. Plans are underway to have a Silent Auction as soon as possible to raise money for Mission and Service. We are seeking feedback re the new booklet *These Days*, a publication of the United Church, which we have chosen to replace *The Upper Room*.

The National UCW conference will be in Vancouver July 10-17, 2017. We plan to sponsor a member to attend. 19 members attended The Fall Gathering hosted at Carol Kell's home. Rev Bonnie Fraser and Karen Crowley were the guest presenters. The Fall Yard sale was a success thanks to the many volunteers. L'Arche extended thanks to UCW for the donation to assist in sponsoring summer camp. UCW will have a display of our activities on Anniversary Sunday.

Antigonish Youth Group

SATURDAYS 7-9:30PM
GRADES 7-12

St. James Church Hall
Fall 2016 Free! Each
night will feature fun,
games, activities and
food with a Biblical
lesson!



Saturday, October 15 • Baking & Games

Apple Crisp baking for the Hot Meal Program & extra to have that night! With games & activities

November 11-13 Fall Retreat

Malagash <http://malagashbiblecamp.com/>

Saturday, November 19 • Bowling Night

Pins' Bowling Centre, fees apply

Saturday, December 3 • All Things Christmas

Games, activities & food revolving around the meaning of Christmas

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2017:

Faith & Science, Sledding day, Games night, Movie night, Realty Check, and much more!

Who? What?
Where? When?
Why? How?

There are many activities, interest groups and special events within St. James United, but not everyone is aware of what these groups have to offer or how to get in touch with the activity coordinators. To respond to this need, Connections will attempt to explain the various groups that operate within the church. The hope is that more people will take an interest in some of these activities.

The following is a partial list of activity chair people. These would be the best people to speak to in order to find out a group's meeting times.

Bell Choir: Tara Nicholson

Youth Group: Linda Penner

Meditation Group: Fran Wittgens (Carol Day)

Library/Archives: Marilyn Gerrietts and
Marlene Groenberg

Men's Choir: Peter Rawding

Hot Meal Program: Betty Webber

Social Justice: Anne Camozzi and Judy Jowett

United Church Women Chairperson:

Joanne MacKenzie

Men's Club: Allan Farrell

Hospitality and Congregational Life: Betty Webber

Seniors Fellowship: Bob Murray

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Mavis Murray

Outreach and Communication: Fran Wittgens



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