

CONNECTIONS



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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 9 Issue 1 • Spring 2015

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ
has become a new person.*

The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

Dear Friends in Christ,

In late January we were feeling lucky in this part of the province that the record snowfalls and constant winter storms that battered other places had missed us. The weather had been cold but there was little ice or snow on the ground and it seemed like the worst of winter was past. Then we began the week leading into February and everything changed.

A series of storms hit each week, closing the town numerous times and cancelling church services. The thought that we might have an easy winter was buried under piles of snow and layers of ice. Even as we move through March toward April, the grip of winter does not seem to want to let go, with the cold and storms continuing.

Yet already there are signs of change around us. The days are getting longer and the warmth of the sun means that any snow which arrives is soon melted. Even the mountains of ice and snow are slowly beginning to disappear. For as brutal as the short winter has been it can not last.

The shouts of Hallelujah at Easter signal that the world has turned a corner. We celebrate that the cold grip of despair gives way to the warmth of the good news that God has raised Jesus from the dead. The disciples rejoiced that the terrible days of fear and death were transformed into a time of celebration and renewal. Life will never be the same for us and the whole world because God's love and grace have changed everything.

The reality of the cross is that God understands the storms and difficulties of life and answers us in our need with grace and hope. For the promise of the empty tomb is that we are not forced to deal with

the worst of life forever. We have a strength and a certainty that God begins a new life for us today. The old is finished and the new starts because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

In this holy season may God bless our church and our families as we join our hearts and voices together and remember the events of Holy Week and rejoice at the good news that Jesus is alive!

*Yours In Christ's Service,
The Rev. Peter Smith*



Services Holy Week & Easter

March 29 Palm Sunday

10:30 am We wave our palms and shout our Hosannas as Jesus enters Jerusalem and we consider the events which follow as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

April 2, Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm in the Hall. Come gather around the Table as together we remember and share the events in the Upper Room.

April 3, Good Friday

10:30 am As disciples of Jesus, we experience through story and song the emotions, events and meaning of the crucifixion.

April 5, Easter Sunday

6:30 am on the Bethany grounds. As the sun rises, voices and prayers blend to give thanks for the Resurrection. A pancake breakfast will follow back in the church hall hosted by the Men's Club.

10:30 am Easter Sunday service



The St. James United Sunday School Singers are always a welcome treat.

Your Social Justice Committee in Action!

Here's an update on what your SJC has been up to recently. The Antigonish Gift Book program enjoyed another exceptional year under the guidance of Judy Jowett. The brochure encourages financial donations to anti-poverty groups in our local community as gifts to honour people, instead of spending money for more consumer items. Not only does this benefit the organizations, but we are proud to promote the reduction of consumerism as so many consumer goods are made and transported using fossil fuels. Please bear in mind that while we campaign at Christmas, these donations also make great birthday, anniversary, graduation, or "any time" gifts. The 2014 initiative raised the following amounts:

- Antigonish Community Food Bank – \$100.00
- ACALA – \$75.00
- Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund – \$2,165.00
- VON – \$100.00
- Women's Resource Centre – \$138.00
- Family Services of SN – \$200.00
- Kid's First – \$50.00
- Naomi Society – \$24.00
- St James Hot Meal Program – \$490.00
- St Ninian's St Vincent de Paul – \$150.00

Donations received in the 2014 campaign totalled \$3,492.00, almost double last year and marking the highest return yet! Mike MacDonald with the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund utilized an excellent tactic this fall. He carried a number of the brochures on him and whenever people asked about the Fuel Fund he didn't hesitate to hand them one to read. As you can see, that worked well.

We continue to utilize our Social Justice Calendars (available in the narthex), weekly church bulletins and Social Justice "Minutes" to highlight important issues, dates and events. Recently, for World Social Justice Day on February 20, we invited the congregation to reflect on the following important issues: extreme world-wide poverty, racism and discrimination on any basis, armed conflicts/genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, promotion of universal primary education/

ST. JAMES HOLY BAPTISM

On Sept. 14th 2014, St. James United welcomed to the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Havelock Thomas Tate, son of Erin (Trenholm) and Larry Tate. Standing with Havelock as godparents are Amanda MacGillivray and Kyle Van de Sande.

On March 1st, 2015 St. James United welcomed to the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Jacob Klaus Lauff child of Krista DeCoste and Randy Lauff. Jacob's godparents are Susan and Dale Elliot.

literacy, good shelter and safe drinking water for all, eradication of diseases such as malaria, HIV-AIDS and child mortality environmental and species protection

Committee members organize and conduct a semi-annual Adopt-A-Highway cleanup project. Our area is Interchange 32 where Highways 7 and 104 intersect. Again this year Tim Hinds and Michèle Ashby hope to attend (at no expense to St James) the Adopt-A-Highway info session in April in Port Williams. These have been invaluable sources of information and inspiration in the past.

On an ongoing basis, members of the committee have contacted local, provincial and federal politicians on social justice matters and/or circulated petitions, both on their own and as representatives of St James. Some recent issues addressed include Nova Scotia's ban on Sunday hunting, disability and accessibility considerations, human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo and promotion of Canadian ethical mining practices abroad.

St James' Social Justice Committee is always open to collaborative action-oriented projects with other community groups. One project currently under consideration is to try and reduce local use of plastic bags. Fossil fuels are used in the production of plastic. Plastic bags take years to break down in landfills and cause the deaths of many innocent land and sea creatures that accidentally consume them. Thirty years ago in Antigonish there was a successful campaign to use cloth bags for grocery shopping spearheaded by people at the Braemore Coop. Many jurisdictions are now banning plastic bags. What about encouraging Antigonish to become a "plastic bag free community" and set an example?

Any other ideas for social justice activism? Please talk to a member of the Social Justice Committee: Michèle Ashby, Anne Camozzi, Krista DeCoste, Barb DeMarsh, Hope Graham, Judy Jowett, Muriel Kennedy and Rev. Peter Smith. Better yet, join our group – new members always welcome. We can improve our world; every action counts. Stay informed – get involved!



On March 1, St. James adherents enjoyed the musical contributions of the St. James Brass Quintet with guest vocalist Kathy Langille in honour of Black History Month.

*May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.*

~ Franciscan Benediction

Churchyard Beautification

It is hard to imagine that underneath all the snow that surrounds us, there are bulbs and perennials which will bring their bursts of colour, letting us know that this long and hard winter is over at last.

The Town of Antigonish through its Beautification Committee has made our town a place of beauty and one can't help but feel uplifted as we see the flowers along Main Street and at the bridges. But each summer I look at the flower beds in our cemetery beside the church and think that we could be doing better. They have become overgrown and, except for the spring tulips, lack colour. Gordon keeps the grass cut and the leaves are raked in the fall, but what the two flower beds need are some green thumbs to tend them.

I'm sure there are gardeners in our congregation who would be willing to give of their time to give these flower beds the attention they deserve. If we had a number of people who are willing, we could work out a schedule, much like door duty, so that each person or a team of two would be responsible for a week during which they could do a bit of gardening. This way the flower beds would be continually looked after and would no longer appear to be abandoned to the elements.

If anyone is interested please phone Mavis at 863-3179. And remember, Spring will come.

Mavis Murray



St. James United has a tradition of holding several family-friendly pot luck dinners every year. Representatives from the church, the university and from different communities within Antigonish enjoy meeting and sharing a meal in the welcoming atmosphere of the church hall. All are welcome. Why not make a special effort to attend one of the pot luck dinners this year?



From The Archives

Ecumenism in the early 1900s, concern over seating and the seeds of church union

On January 3, 1912 in St. James Hall on Wednesday evening after prayer meeting at which time the Session of St. James Church met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator with whom was present J H Steward, D R Graham, David Steward and A C Thompson elders. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The week of prayer commencing on the 7th this year it was decided to celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sabbath morning the 14th. It was decided D R Graham and J H Steward and A C Thompson be a delegation to wait upon Edgar Whidden and Mr. Clark and if agreeable to them to arrange for union meetings during the week of prayer. Mr. Denoon thought it might be better to hold the meetings all in our Church this year and in the Baptist Church next year if that was found acceptable to all concerned. The Moderator also thought we had better make our own selections of subjects for the week. He also thought that some others besides himself should lead some of the meetings. Mr. Graham said that Mr. Fred Taylor has called at his store a little ago and gave him to understand that they were not satisfied with their seat in the church and said they had not been given the same location that they occupied before the new seats were put in. In discussing the matter the Session were of the opinion that the Taylors with all the others in the church occupied the same seat as in the old, but that all were moved a little further from the front, Mr. Denoon said he intended making a call upon these people and would discuss the matter with them and try find out what arrangements can be made. The question of "union" is to be brought before the congregation and it was agreed that after Mr. Denoon preached a sermon on union of the churches, the elders would proceed to distribute the ballots each in his district and see that all were supplied with the literature on the subject and these ballots be taken up on the plates on the following Sabbath. There being no further business closed with the benediction.

A H Denoon, Moderator
A C Thompson, Clark

CAMP MEMORIES

When I heard that the gates to MacLennan Memorial Camp would be closing for good, it was like a ton of bricks being thrown at me. This just could not be happening, but then reality set in and sadly I knew it was true. Having served on the camp committee for nine years back in the 70s I knew of the struggles in keeping a camp going, but in those days it was more a financial concern than due to a lack of campers. Times change, but memories remain.

Part of my teen years were associated with that camp. Being a member of CGIT (Canadian Girls In Training) meant that you would likely be attending camp for ten days in the summer. Living in New Glasgow as a girl I was well acquainted with the area where camp was held. My first two years of camping were spent at Black Point and then Chance Harbour where the camp remained until its closing.

What glorious ten days they were. We would go with our chosen tent mate and then await with anticipation while we were assigned our tent number and the names of our tent mates. You will note that I am saying tents. Those were the days of camping in tents. The cabins did not come until much later. Big tents that held, if I remember correctly, eight girls. Think of eight girls trying to keep a tent neat and tidy and once tent inspection was over it did not remain neat and tidy for very long. We did not have modern facilities and that cold water wash early in the morning was the only dreaded part of camp.

We were blessed in the leadership given by women who had strong church affiliations, many of them school teachers who spent their summers at church camps. At that time the camps were operated by the Maritime Religious Education Council and we were so fortunate in having Constance Young, National Girls Work Secretary, as Camp Director one summer. What good leadership these women gave in our daily Bible Study class.

Those of us who have attended church camp will always remember those days, with the programs of Salutation To The Dawn, Morning Watch, Bible Study, the walk through the woods to Vespers held in a small clearing near the beach where an altar of stone and a wooden cross had been made. And the highlight of the day – campfire. And the fun activities of swimming in what then was clean and

healthy water, mealtime with wonderful food, craft group, tuck shop. As I write this I am transported back to those days and feel thankful that I had that experience.

My daughter attended the same camp, loving it as much as I had, and went on to be a camp counsellor. The year before I was married I spent the summer at the camp as business manager and it was wonderful to be back again in those well-loved surroundings. It was then that I met Joyce Hilling for the first time and as a camper she came to the tuck shop each day to spend her allotted amount on "treats". Little did I realize that it would not be many years down the road that she would become our baby-sitter in Antigonish. And several times throughout the years I would meet someone who looked familiar only to find out that they had attended MacLennan Memorial Camp.

Over the years there have been many young people from St. James who have attended the church camp and even though the camp will be no more, for many of us that little corner of Pictou County will be forever cherished.

Mavis Murray

Looking Back

Dominating the news thirty-five years ago were stories about the wave of people fleeing Vietnam following that country's long war. Known as "Boat People," many fled on small boats, making their way in treacherous conditions to Kai Tak, a British army post near Hong Kong's airport. As numbers rose to many thousands, various countries, Canada included, agreed to help resettle the displaced. Ottawa invited Canadians to participate in the relocation process by organizing groups to sponsor them.

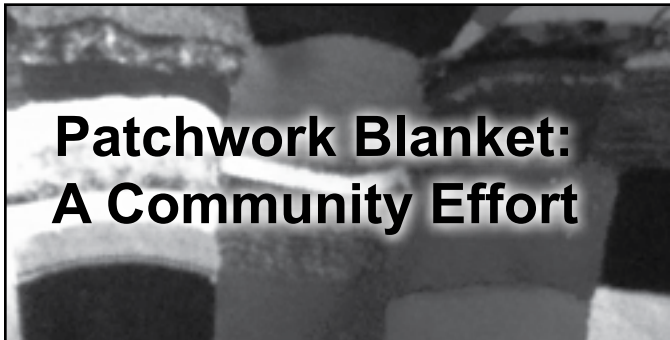
Eager to help in 1979, Antigonishers from St. James United Church and St. Ninians Parish organized the Antigonish Area Refugee Assistance Association at a public meeting in the St. James gymnasium. Committees were formed, each with a specific responsibility - Ways and Means, Housing, Food and Clothing, Language etc. - to make preparations for receiving those to be sponsored when they arrived and to continue working with them afterwards. Local radio station CJFX cooperated with the Ways and Means Committee by holding a Sunday afternoon call-in show and in three hours raised \$25,000, the amount the government required a group to have in hand in order to become a sponsor. The Association then formally applied to the relevant government agency to be a sponsor for a period of one year.

The most pressing need was to locate suitable housing. An apartment became available on Main Street and the Housing Committee rented it. A work bee readied it for occupancy.

The six immigrants the Association agreed to sponsor arrived in Halifax in mid-winter of 1980 and two cars were sent to the airport to bring them to Antigonish. Three refugees, an aunt and her two teenage nephews, were from Saigon, and the others, a sister and brother and a female cousin - senior teenagers - were from Hanoi. All had been at the Kai Tak facility for about a year.

Only the aunt had any facility in English, so the Language Committee had a challenging task to tutor the group in English. The Food and Clothing Committee stocked the apartment before the group arrived and it continued to help with buying groceries and acquiring suitable clothing.

Meanwhile St. Andrews Parish had organized to become a sponsor and it succeeded in locating



Patchwork Blanket: A Community Effort

One of the interesting projects that brings members of the Antigonish community together is the Patchwork Blanket project. It began with several members of the community, all avid sewers, who began to meet at the R. K. MacDonald nursing home every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 - 3:30. Before long a number of the R.K. residents joined the group and within weeks several members from St. James' own Prayer Shawl Ministry added their expertise.

The result of this combining of talent and interests is a beautiful patchwork quilt, emblematic of the cooperation and mutual respect that is so much a part of the Antigonish community.



Shuchang (Emily) Dai presents a beautiful banner to St. James United Church in December. The word Emmanuel (God With Us) is done in Chinese calligraphy and will be a treasured addition to the church's art collection.

the Hanoi trio's mother, older brother and wife, and a sister who were still at Kai Tak. It was a happy moment when they arrived at St. Andrews a bit later.

The Association encouraged social interaction with the group, hoping to make them feel welcome and at home as much as possible in their new surroundings. The ongoing language tutoring, like the grocery shopping excursions, were a big help in this regard. Also in time people would drop into the apartment to say hello. These visits gave community people a chance to get to know the newcomers personally, which also gave them opportunities to practice their English while chatting over a cup of tea. After a while several refugees began part time work with local merchants.

After a year in Antigonish acclimating to life in Canada, the group felt ready to begin life on their own. They opted to relocate to Toronto, a natural choice for them for they had been accustomed to city life and there was a growing Vietnamese community there. The other family members St. Andrews Parish sponsored soon joined them. Those from Hanoi found life partners and employment and now live in Markham. They have successful families with children ranging in age from preschoolers to those in post secondary programs or entering professional careers. The aunt and her two nephews from Saigon stayed in Toronto for a time, but moved on to

California where it seems they also have re-united with family.

For many years after their move to Toronto I was involved in summertime research there. It proved a convenient opportunity to stay in touch with them, and this contact has continued over the past fourteen years since Sarah and I retired to Kitchener. Our get-togethers for bar-be-ques or at Christmas, and for special times like graduations are always pleasant, enabling us to see how their lives are unfolding. One has finished a business degree and is the comptroller for two Markham car dealerships. One of the group's children is a Bay Street chartered accountant, and another is a graduate student in pharmacy, while still others are community college students anticipating careers in hotel management, police work and law.

They express deep gratitude for the warm welcome and generous assistance they experienced in Antigonish and see it as a major factor in getting them started on the road to success in their new homeland. They remember fondly the friends they made in Antigonish and often ask about them.

It has been a rewarding experience to follow their progress over more than three decades. For their part in extending a helping hand to these new Canadians at a critical moment in their lives, the people of Antigonish from both St. James and St. Andrews can be justly proud.

Allen Stouffer, Kitchener
21 February 2015

New Books on the St. James United Book Shelves

A People's History of The United States: 1492 to Present

by Howard Zinn

HARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS |

July 21, 2005 | Trade Paperback

Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, *A People's History of the United States* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of -- and in the words of -- America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant labourers.

The Fourth Gospel: Tales of A Jewish Mystic

by John Shelby Spong

Harper Collins Publishers, May 28, 2013

John Shelby Spong, bestselling author and popular proponent of a modern, scholarly and authentic Christianity, argues that this last gospel to be written was misinterpreted by the framers of the fourth-century creeds to be a literal account of the life of Jesus when in fact it is a literary, interpretive retelling of the events in Jesus' life...

The Fourth Gospel was designed first to place Jesus into the context of the Jewish scriptures, then to place him into the worship patterns of the synagogue and finally to allow him to be viewed through the lens of a popular form of first-century Jewish mysticism.

The result of this intriguing study is not only to recapture the original message of this gospel, but also to provide us today with a radical new dimension to the claim that in the humanity of Jesus the reality of God has been met and engaged.

Fields of Blood: Religion and The History Of Violence

by Karen Armstrong

Knopf Canada, October 28, 2014

From the renowned and bestselling author of *A History of God*, a sweeping exploration of religion's

connection to violence. For the first time in American history, religious self-identification is on the decline. Some have cited a perception that began to grow after September 11: that faith in general is a source of aggression, intolerance and divisiveness--something bad for society. But how accurate is that view? And does it apply equally to all faiths? In these troubled times, we risk basing decisions of real and dangerous consequence on mistaken understandings of the faiths subscribed around us, in our immediate community as well as globally. And so, with her deep learning and sympathetic understanding, Karen Armstrong examines the impulse toward violence in each of the world's great religions.

So Anyway

by John Cleese

Doubleday Canada November 4, 2014

John Cleese's huge comedic influence has stretched across generations; his sharp irreverent eye and the unique brand of physical comedy he perfected with Monty Python, on *Fawlty Towers*, and beyond now seem written into comedy's DNA. In this rollicking memoir, *So Anyway...*, Cleese takes readers on a Grand Tour of his ascent in the entertainment world, from his humble beginnings in a sleepy English town and his early comedic days at Cambridge University (with future Python partner Graham Chapman), to the founding of the landmark comedy troupe that would propel him to worldwide renown. Twisting and turning through surprising stories and hilarious digressions—with some brief pauses along the way that comprise a fascinating primer on what's funny and why—this story of a young man's journey to the pinnacle of comedy is a masterly performance by a master performer.

The Real World of Technology

by Ursula Franklin

House Of Anansi Press Inc., June 15, 1999

In this expanded edition of her bestselling 1989 CBC Massey Lectures, renowned scientist and humanitarian Ursula M. Franklin examines the impact of technology upon our lives and addresses the extraordinary changes since *The Real World of*

Technology was first published. In four new chapters, Franklin tackles contentious issues, such as the dilution of privacy and intellectual property rights, the impact of the current technology on government and governance, the shift from consumer capitalism to investment capitalism, and the influence of the Internet upon the craft of writing.

**The Ursula Franklin Reader:
Pacifism as a Map**

by Michelle Swenarchuk, Ursula Franklin
Between the Lines October 15, 2006

Feminist, educator, Quaker, and physicist, Ursula Franklin has long been considered one of Canada's foremost advocates and practitioners of pacifism. The Ursula Franklin Reader: Pacifism as a Map is a comprehensive collection of her work, and demonstrates subtle, yet critical, linkages across a range of subjects: the pursuit of peace and social justice, theology, feminism, environmental protection, education, government, and citizen activism. This thoughtful collection, drawn from more than four

decades of research and teaching, brings readers into an intimate discussion with Franklin, and makes a passionate case for how to build a society centred around peace.

**Destiny Disrupted: A History of
the World Through Islamic Eyes**

by Tamim Ansary

Public Affairs April 27, 2010

We in the west share a common narrative of world history. But our story largely omits a whole civilization whose citizens shared an entirely different narrative for a thousand years.

In *Destiny Disrupted*, Tamim Ansary tells the rich story of world history as the Islamic world saw it, from the time of Mohammed to the fall of the Ottoman Empire and beyond. He clarifies why our civilizations grew up oblivious to each other, what happened when they intersected, and how the Islamic world was affected by its slow recognition that Europe—a place it long perceived as primitive and disorganized—had somehow hijacked destiny.

The annual Christmas Day Community Dinner

continues to grow in popularity as members of the community join with friends, neighbours and total strangers to celebrate together. Music, laughter and good food and a strong sense of community are always in fashion at St. James United Church.



A Weather Story: DRC Style

Half baby steps. Shuffling. Ice. Then there is the rain. Inconvenient rain.

“Getting caught in the rain.” What a new experience for me last year. While I was reading e-mails telling me that Nova Scotia was getting weekly Wednesday snowstorms, I was in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) appreciating what was, for me, a usually moderate or warm temperature. DRC straddles the equator so has both a rainy season and a dry season concurrently. Twice a year each! (I never really understood the seasonal rhythms in DRC. I alternately lived north and south of the equator, twice each, during my seven months there. When people said it was planting season or harvest, I could make no connection with my previous knowledge. I just accepted it.

One day I learned it was harvest time for the large field of cassava. Some staff, hired workers and I boarded the Land Cruiser to travel to the field. Along the way we had to ford a shallow stream that was about a foot deep and six to eight feet across. Our driver halted before we got in sight of the stream and called out to notify the women we were coming. He knew that the stream would be a bustling bathing place and laundromat.

When we reached the stream all the women and girls were modestly wrapped and stood aside as our Cruiser passed through the water, up the bank and on to the cassava field. When we arrived at the field, an already-amassed pile of cassava tubers awaited us. The early workers were just finishing a snack of hot boiled cassava. They shared the leftovers with us and returned to their harvesting.

Some of us started transferring the cassava tubers into the back of the Cruiser—by handfuls and armfuls: back-breaking work. Concurrently



workers carefully collected cassava stems to tie on top of the Cruiser. When the cassava is young, its leaves are gathered and cooked as “greens” to go with the main meal of bidia (a dough of cassava and corn flour). At harvest time, the cassava stocks are collected, cut, and replanted or shared with other farmers to plant for the next harvest.

While working together, there was conversation. I chatted mostly with one of the staff who spoke French. We kept glancing at the horizon and trying to guess how long it would take for those looming dark clouds to reach us. Everyone else seemed quite aware of the sky too, as they enjoyed conversation in the local Chiluba language.

The wind picked up.... the first sprinkle started.... we hurried ever faster. We had a load to go. The back of the Cruiser was full of cassava tubers and the top was maxed out with secured cassava stems. Then ... no denying it ... it started to pour—tropical rain style. Everyone clambered to board the Cruiser. Not much space. Horizontal, if you could squeeze against the top. Dr. Jean made sure that the women and girls had first choice to get inside. People happily tried to make space for “one more”. No room to raise a head. Some people decided they might as well walk home. Women toting baskets of cassava on their heads soon were lost from sight in the horizontally driven rain. SNOW BLIZZARD flashed in my memory.

Those still outside hugged the vehicle on the lee side of the wind. Inside—phew! Steamed windows, tropical temperatures, and pressed bodies. Noah’s Ark, perhaps?

Rain stopped. Wind died. Sun returned. People miraculously donned the dry clothes they had brought and shared with those who were not so prepared. Everyone was looked after. Maybe this was something like the blessing of the loaves for the five thousand? Anyway, time to travel home. Some workers stayed behind to continue the harvesting and returned home with the second load.

The dirt path along the field had become a treacherous series of mud holes but our driver was expert and we didn’t get stuck. Then we turned the last curve to approach the stream crossing. The roiling, raging river was bereft of people. Both embankments had disappeared. Trees of six and eight-inch diameter looked ready to be uprooted and carried downstream. “Oh, we will have to take the long way home,” thought I. (I didn’t know that such an option did not exist.)

We were already using four-wheel drive. We eased into the water. The water rose over the wheels, then over the hood. Silence reigned inside the Cruiser. I felt the wheels slip and start to spin as we commenced our climb up the other side. I wondered if we could egress from the Cruiser. Perhaps we could roll down the window on downstream side. But, individually we had no chance against the speed and power of the river.

Gradually, ever creeping, spinning but not stopping, we made it up the other side. Finally, I could take a breath.

When we got home, I relayed the happenings to the only other English speaking person I knew—Dr. Cécile, a 77 year-old Belgian physician with marked immobility due to Parkinson’s disease. Not at all surprised or amazed, she merely commented, “That’s why we have a snorkel on the vehicle.”

Snorkel? Snorkel! What kind of driving equipment is that? As many of you know, I have a strong preference for vehicles that use diesel and I knew that diesels could manage in higher water conditions better than gas vehicles BUT I knew that even diesels had a limit to how much water they could survive. Snorkels. So that was that long black tube up the side of the Cruiser that I had wondered about. A snorkel.

Walking the Jesus Road has adventures, wounds, life and death. Sometimes, just delightful surprises: SNORKELS! WEATHER. Whether we like it or not!

St. James UCW

will be holding their annual spring yard sale
on Sat, April 25th from 9:30 to 11:00 am

Please - no clothing, Christmas items, ice
skates, skis, boots or poles.

We are no longer accepting TVs, computers,
keyboards, printers or any related electronic
accessories since these items no longer sell.

It is appreciated so much when donations
arrive clean and in good working
condition. We hope you will take the time
to look over your things carefully before you
drop them off.

The drop-off dates are from Tuesday, April 7
to Friday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you have any questions regarding items to
donate or want to arrange another drop-off
time, please call Barbara Gardiner at 863-1641.

*The General UCW will
celebrate the year-end with a
dinner and special program
on Sunday June 7, 2015
at 5 PM in the church hall.*

- The dinner menu will be stuffed chicken
breasts with all the trimmings at \$16.00
per plate plus tip.
- The program will be invited guests
from The Stephen Lewis Foundation:
grandmothers for grandmothers.
- All women of the congregation are
invited to attend so please mark this
date on your calendars.



Yoga

Starting Tuesday, March 31

from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

*Gentle Yoga with Stacy Steeves, nurse,
yoga teacher at St. James Church Hall.*

Cost: \$5/ session.

For more information, please call

Betty Webber, 902-863-1301

Limited to 15 persons

Due to the uncertain weather Nova Scotia
has been experiencing in recent months,
several activities involving members of
St. James United Church have had to be
cancelled. Notice of these cancellations are
listed on the web page of radio station
989 X-FM. Here is the link to the
Cancellation List. Before venturing out in
poor weather, always verify that the event
has not been cancelled.
www.989xfm.ca/category/cancellations



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By the Outreach & Communications Committee

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St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish, NS
Phone: (902) 863-2001 • Email: st.james@ns.sympatico.ca
www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm