



# CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 10 Issue 2 • Summer 2016

*And let us consider how to stir up one another  
to love and good works*

~ Hebrews 10:24 (ESV)

## Dear Friends in Christ,

A few weeks ago, Hope and I planted some seeds and placed the pots on the deck. Each day we take some time to enjoy watching them sprout and grow. Of course, we're not only watching the seeds grow- we're also watering and repotting the plants when the time comes for the truth is that plants need both attention and support in order to grow to their potential.

I think that's a good way to understand our life together as a church. We watch and celebrate as the people around us grow in faith but we're also called to help make that growth happen. Our words as disciples are supposed to support and encourage others to find a richer and fuller spiritual life. Our actions as followers of Jesus should help others find new ways to share

and explore their faith. For part of the joy of being the church is helping those around us become more loving, more caring, and more Christ-like and of course allowing them to support, encourage, and help us grow in our belief and trust in God.

So as we move into the quieter days of summer, I would invite you to think about how we're living our faith and prayerful consider how we can "stir up each other" to become more faithful witnesses to Jesus and discover ways to expand and enrich the work and life of our church.

Perhaps there are things we are doing which could be done with more enthusiasm and depth and maybe there are new things we can undertake within our



church and even the wider community. For our life together is intended to help us mature to a greater faith and knowledge of God, to walk closer with Jesus each day, and to express and show the faith and love which the Spirit calls us to share with the world.

*May God continue to bless each of  
you and us together as a church,  
The Rev. Peter A Smith*

The New Church Council (left) St. James United



## SAFE (Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace) UPDATE



The people of Antigonish (Town and County) have embraced our newest citizens, and in just six months the Hadhad and Al Zhouri families have become an important part of our social fabric. The outpouring of kindness and support has been so great that SAFE is now preparing for the arrival of two more Syrian families, the Al Shilawi family a bit later in 2016 and the Al Hariri family in 2017.

The successful integration of these new Canadians is the direct result of well-organized teams of volunteers, and there are several committees that are accepting new members: fundraising, communication, settlement, family arrival, daily living, health care,

finances, clothing, housing, and employment. Any person who is willing to donate time to one of these committees is asked to speak with Bronwen Cooke.

By now almost everyone has heard of Hadhad chocolates, available at the Antigonish Farmer's Market. But recently Toufic Al Zhouri has also begun a small business. An experienced carpenter, he is now creating wooden planter boxes (seen below), 3' x 2' and 20 inches deep, for \$60.00 per box. Even better, plans are underway to have Toufic Al Zhouri expand to garbage and/or compost boxes because increased animal and bird predation on garbage collection day are making them necessary.

For more information or to place orders contact Ben Theuerkauf at 902-867-1587, or through his e-mail address at bentheuerkauf@gmail.com

But there are always opportunities to help for those who have no spare time. This spring, for example, bicycles were donated by several local families, and Canadian Tire provided helmets for the nine new cyclists. The East Coast Credit Union donated \$1500 to SAFE from their Minnie in Motion walk, and once again an information booth will be set up during the Antigonish Highland Games to both provide information about SAFE and to solicit donations.

SAFE wishes to thank all members of the St. James United community who have so generously supported their efforts. It's hard to believe that in the single year that this group has been in existence, so much good has been accomplished. But an organization is only as good as the people who support it, and Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace is grateful for the open-heartedness of the people of Antigonish.

## MARITIME CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN BIENNIAL MEETING

April 22 - 24, 2016

Five ladies from St. James UCW attended the Maritime Conference UCW Biennial Conference hosted by Knox United Church Brookfield, N.S. with help from five other United Churches within Truro Presbytery.

The theme for the three day event was "Love in My Heart". The conference began at three o'clock Friday afternoon with all delegates gathering in the sanctuary.

Over the course of the three days time was spent reviewing reports from the 13 Presbyteries, committee reports, workshops, music, entertainment, a memorial service, communion service, lots of laughter, great food and remarkable fellowship.

Members of Knox United Church prepared an Hawaiian feast for our Saturday dinner banquet. This is the recipe for the dessert they prepared for us.

### *Hawaii Desert; Ha-La Ka-hi-ki Desert.*

1 1/2 cups graham wafer crumbs, 1/4 cup melted butter, mix together & press in 9x13 pan, 2 cans crushed pineapple and juice, 1 cup Greek vanilla yogurt, 1 pkg vanilla instant pudding. Mix together and place on crumb base, top with a container of cool whip.

## From the Sunday School

Our Sunday school closing is set for June 19th. The children will be taking part in the service and following the service everyone is invited to join with the Sunday school to enjoy hot dogs, ice-cream, and refreshments to celebrate the end of another Sunday school season. The children, Judy, Ida and helpers will enjoy the summer months but will look forward with excitement and expectations for a new Sunday school season to begin September 13th. We wish everyone a safe and joy-filled summer.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



## YE OLDE STUMP FROLIC





# The Hayes Symposium: Living through Death

The Atlantic School of Theology held a Symposium on Death, Dying and Bereavement this past May 9th, 10th, and 11th. Planning for the symposium began three years ago to honour Archbishop Hayes who was noted for his attendance on the sick and the dying. The symposium was initially intended to discuss topics such as the tendency of advancing technology to dehumanize the care of the dying, but the Carter decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in February 2015 shifted its focus since it argued that an individual's charter rights included physician assisted death and parliament is in the process of creating legislation to regulate the process.

Nuala Kenny, a paediatrician and a Sister of Charity was the keynote speaker and gave a very forceful presentation. She gave a talk later that week in Antigonish that some of you may have heard. She focused on the negative aspects of advancing technology in medicine, and argued that we live in a death-defying world in which we expect technology always to be able to effect cures. The

role of simply caring for the ill has been diminished. She emphasized the dangers posed by the very wide scope of the supreme court decision, and the many people such as the elderly and disabled who would be vulnerable to pressure to accept death, rather than to inconvenience others by receiving assistance in continuing to live. She preferred the term physician assisted death although the term being used by the general public is physician assisted dying. Health care teams have long been assisting in dying by reducing suffering through palliative care.

The other presentation that particularly impressed me was given by Susan Chisholm who discussed her research towards a Masters of Divinity at AST. She conducted surveys and in-depth interviews with physicians about their attitudes towards physician assisted death. She found that a large majority of doctors were unwilling to assist at a suicide. They stated they entered medicine to heal, not to harm and would not administer drugs that were intended to kill. Doctors will be the ones expected to determine when assisted death is appropriate and to ensure that the vulnerable are protected; most expect that making that determination will be an onerous and difficult responsibility.

I've hardly done justice to a three day conference, but I hope I've written enough to give you an idea of the issues raised. In addition to presentations, those attending met in break out groups to discuss each talk. As a result it was a very stimulating three days -- and it was not all doom and gloom. Everyone was meeting old friends and making new ones, so that as the Dean attempted to obtain quiet to begin the last morning's session, he chided us that we must have forgotten the topic of the meetings, since we were having so much fun.

I am very grateful that St. James was able to provide me with financial assistance to attend these meetings.

Marilyn Gerriets

## MEN'S LOBSTER DINNER



## Matthew Wright

recently celebrated his 40th birthday at Disneyland with his parents Joan and Sandy. Everyone had a wonderful time and Matthew couldn't get enough of the rides and the fun.



in Philadelphia. The yearly seminars at the Atlantic School of Theology in Truro were a magnet for seekers like Beryl.

The books and tapes she bought would find their way to our St. James library. Perhaps most profound for our Antigonish community has been the meditation group she founded over 20 years ago. It still meets and is marked by its interdenominational flavour. Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. there is an invitation to have a quiet place to let the spirit work while we remain still.

The Tuesday Meditation Group wanted to have a living memorial for Beryl. It was decided to plant a rhododendron next to the Church St. entrance to remember her. To help with this both Sarah Lancaster and Jason Day joined planners Marilyn Gerriets and Carol Day. We hope the community enjoys the life and colour this plant will bring as a memento to a life well lived.

## In Memory of Beryl MacIntosh



Recently St James and the wider community said goodbye to a lively, unforgettable spirit. Beryl MacIntosh has influenced many as a result of her unstoppable searching and exploring of spiritual life. Her quest brought her to such places as a Karl Young seminar in Switzerland, or a Quaker Centre



FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE CHOIR MISBEHAVES

At the Presbyterian Church Antigonish on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March AD 1882 the which day and place the session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

Present, the Moderator Messers J. MacMillan, D. Chisholm, N. Pushie, R. Dickson, S. Williams, H.H. McCurdy and C. Harrington, Elders.

The minutes of the three previous meetings were read and sustained. The Communion Roll was then taken up and purged. Conduct of the choir unbefitting the House of God being brought before the Session, it was therefor moved by J. MacMillan and seconded by D. Chisholm that the services of the choir in the gallery be dispensed with and the praise conducted in the body of the church. In the meantime until the Session thinks proper to call them again. C. A. Harrington was appointed to call upon Messers Bishop and Gass to express the desire of the Session, that they would lead the praise of the Church for the present. The Session than closed with prayer.

P Goodfellow, Moderator  
C A Harrington, Clerk

THE FOLLOW UP

At the Presbyterian Church Antigonish on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April Ad 1882 the Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

Present the Moderator, J. MacMillan, Rpbt. Dickson, J. Burnside, S. Williams, H.H. McCurdy, D. Chisholm and C. Harrington Elders.

The Minutes of the two previous meetings were read and sustained. The Session then for a time held consultations together as to how to deal with the choir on account of conduct unbecoming the House of God. The choir then met with the Session as requested and after consultation together all was settled amicably

and the choir promising to respect their position in the future, were restored to their places, after which the Session closed with prayer.

P. Goodfellow, Moderator  
C.A. Harrington, Clerk

MORE FROM THE ARCHIVES

Having raised a considerable sum of money for our renovations let us consider the costs of building a Manse in 1872.

Plans for Building a New Manse from the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting Oct. 14, 1872

Moved, Seconded and passed that the congregation build a Manse not to exceed in cost two thousand dollars.

Moved, Seconded and passed that the sum of one thousand four hundred dollars be raised by subscription for the purpose of paying for the building of said Manse in addition to the sum now in hand raised by the Ladies Tea Meeting.

Moved, Seconded and passed Mr. John Bishop, Robert Trotter A. M. Cunningham Esq. be a joint

Committee with all the Trustees of the congregation for the building of the Manse.

*Plans to Sell the School House Lot from the minutes of the Congregational Meeting Oct. 22, 1873*

Moved by R. Trotter Esq. seconded by John R. Fraser and passed that the Trustees be empowered to sell the Lot of land now called the School House Lot and appropriate the proceeds to the payment of the new Manse and also to dispose of the old Manse to the best advantage.

Moved, Seconded and passed that A. M. Cunningham be continued as Treasurer and collection of the stipends and to receive a commission of 3 per cent.

A Festival of Bell Ringers

A contingent of six of our bell ringers plus a few guests embarked on a wonderful bell ringing adventure this past weekend. We have been busily preparing to attend this years bell festival in Truro by learning and preparing to ring seven selections of music to be played en masse with our fellow Maritime bell ringers. The musical selections were chosen from various church seasons so we will be able to perform many of these selections in the upcoming months. Several of these selections highlight new bell techniques which we look forward to sharing with our congregation.

The festival began on Friday night with approximately two hours of massed bell rehearsal. For many of our members it was their first bell festival and can be quite overwhelming at the beginning. Lots of practice intermingled with socializing with other choirs during breaks and lunch allowed our group of 7 choirs to come together nicely prepare for the performance on Saturday night. The massed pieces were conducted by Joy Miller, director of the St. James Presbyterian church choir of Truro and Christopher Bowman, director of the First United Church choir of Truro. Both of these conductors were enthusiastic and wonderful in bringing out the best from the bell players. We played one piece, titled My Spirit Sings, which is an original piece by Chris Bowman. It was



performed with the massed bells and soloist, Brenna Conrad. Such a treat to perform with a singer and not something we have done previously. In addition, our final piece, Joy in the Morning, was performed with the First United Church choir. Certainly an amazing experience.

Attending a bell festival is an amazing opportunity to learn from other more experienced ringers and try more challenging music with the comfort of being able to play with other choirs. It is quite a challenge to pack up and transport not only our choir members but also all our equipment and bells. I think that all our attendees would agree that it was worth it. It is expensive to purchase music, festival fees, and accommodations and our members would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank the Christian Faith and Development committee for giving us a grant from the Spiritual Enrichment Fund to allow us to attend this festival.



Above: All packed and ready to head out to Truro Rings 2016. Shown here is just some of our players that attended. (L-R) Sheila Davidson, Christine Templeman, Tara Nicholson, Marilyn Gerriets, and Gabriel Bartroud.

Left: The massed bell ringers of Truro Rings 2016. In attendance were choirs from Truro (St, James Presbyterian & First United), Halifax (Bethany United and St. Matthew's United), Lunenburg, Moncton and Antigonish.



# Thank You to Our Musicians



## New Books on Topical Issues

### Sacred Dying: Creating Rituals for Embracing the End of Life

by Megory Anderson  
(paperback – Dec 15, 2003)

**D**eath may be inevitable, but dying alone or in fear does not have to be. *Sacred Dying* is theologian Megory Anderson's essential testimonial and handbook for creating a dignified, peaceful, and more sacred end to life. Anderson includes a section with many prayers and poems from various traditions, and shows how to use personalized and creative rituals to help those dying prepare for their death and to bring a sense of peace, reconciliation, and acceptance both to themselves and to the loved ones they leave behind.

She discusses all aspects of this final transition, including how to help a dying person put "unfinished business" to rest, using massage to help the dying let go of his or her body, and how to use music to help the dying focus on specific times, places, or events. For this first-ever paperback edition, she adds a chapter on what can be done after death to help move the soul along. Intended for those who are going through the death of a loved one as well as those facing death personally, *Sacred Dying* facilitates creating a setting where death is experienced as it should be—with honour, respect, and sacredness.

### Palliative Care, Ageing and Spirituality: A Guide for Older People, Carers and Families

by Elizabeth MacKinlay (Feb 15, 2012)

**T**his sensitive and compassionate book provides older people who are nearing the end of life and their loved ones, as well as the professionals who work with them, with a greater depth of understanding of spiritual issues surrounding death and dying.

Illustrated with the experiences of many older people, it explores important themes such as grief and loss, fear; pain, distress and suffering, acceptance,

transcendence, prayer, the healing of relationships, and intimacy. This book shows that the final journey towards death can be one of the most spiritually meaningful times in the life of an older person - a time in which there is still hope, and in which the person who is dying and their loved ones can grow spiritually, strengthened by the difficult times they face together. Spiritual issues for older people with dementia who are nearing the end of life are also explored, as are ethical and moral issues in death and dying and the ways in which bereaved partners and relatives may come to terms with the loss of a loved one.

### Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying & Caring

by Henri J.M. Nouwen (Sep 14, 2009)

### Great Emergence

by Phyllis Tickle (paperback – Aug 1, 2012)

**T**his book situates emerging Christianity within the framework of other massive transitions in our faith's history and suggests we are living in such a time.

Every five hundred years, the church cleans out its attic and has a giant rummage sale. Well, not exactly. But according to Phyllis Tickle, this is an accurate summary of the church's massive transitions over time. According to the pattern, we are living in such a time of change right now.

Tickle calls it 'the great emergence'—a time of dizzying upheaval and hopeful promise during which various sectors of today's church swirl into a great confluence at the centre. As an internationally renowned expert on religion, Phyllis Tickle has incisive perspective on the trends and transformations of our time. Here, she invites us into a conversation as she shares her reflections stemming from not only personal faith but also decades of observation and analysis. The result is a work that meets the challenge of chronicling a pivotal time in the church's history so we might better understand where we have been and what the future holds. Now available in trade paper with study guide.

## An Altar in the World

BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

**I**n a book from Beryl MacIntosh's library, the author firmly believes that there is no spiritual treasure apart from the bodily experience of human life on earth. Or as she says, it's that spot, right under your feet, that is the last place most of us would look. It is in the mundane, the ordinary where we can see the wedding of spirit and flesh. Her book, a New York Times bestseller, alerts us to the presence in the world about us. She does this through the use of practices which require the body as well as the soul. Doing something, she says, is better than reading or talking about it.

Twelve practices: The Practices of Waking up to God, of Paying Attention, of Wearing Skin, of Walking on the Earth, of Getting Lost, of Encountering Others, of Living with Purpose, of Saying No, of Carrying Water, of Feeling Pain, of Being Present to God, of Pronouncing Blessings. And she hopes we will come up with our own. This book is described by some as a field guide to help you see the red X under your feet. It is definitely a treasure to read and reread.

Fran Wittgens

## The Real World of Technology

by Ursula Franklin (CBC Massey Lectures – Kindle Edition)

**I**n 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.





# CLAN THOMPSON PIPE BAND AND FRIENDS

## In Concert

MC:

Jack Langlois, Stellarton Town Crier

Vocalists:

James MacPherson, Margaret  
MacDonald, Sheumais MacLeod

Celtic Harp: Thea Huard

Flute: Emery Van de Wiel

Dancers:

Erin Gilfoy and Emma Smith  
and other solo and small group  
selections from band members



Tickets Available from Any Band Member, at St.  
James United Church Office, or At the door

Proceeds to St. James United Church and The  
Antigonish Highland Society Foundation

**SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2016 AT 2:30 PM**

St. James United Church, Main Street, Antigonish, NS

Tickets: \$10 Adults \$5 Children under 12

## FALL RETREAT

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

After a summer of rest and relaxation what better way to begin another church season than to attend a retreat? Sponsored by the UCW, all women of the congregation are invited to attend. Rev. Bonnie Fraser, assisted by Karen Crowley, will lead us in the retreat which will be held at the Cape George home of Carol Kell. Time will be 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch will be arranged, so mark the date: September 17.



## Welcome to St. James



My name is Nicole Beaulieu. May 9th will be 2 years since I moved here from Quebec. I have two daughters and two grandsons. I love my life here. People are so nice and welcoming. The most wonderful thing is that I'm close to my grandsons. I play bowling in a league. It is fun and people are great. I'm happy that I fit in and feel comfortable and loved.

## VOX POP

**W**hat are you looking forward to the most about this summer?

A trip to Europe ~ Ken Penner

Being in Montreal ~ Linda Darwish

Water fights! ~ Ben P

My family visiting from Ontario (two sets) ~ Brenda Botterill

Sitting and hooking on my deck ~ Marilyn Gerriets

Health, happiness and peace among everybody and all ~ Keith Adams



## CONNECTIONS

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