

CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

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The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

~ Isaiah 9:2

Dear Friends in Christ,

One day this December, I was driving home at supper time with my thoughts focussed on the day just past and the work still to be done that evening. As the car turned the corner onto our street I heard from a squeal of delight from the back seat - "The lights! The lights! Do you see the lights?"

At that point my attention snapped to the present and I saw the wonderful Christmas lights and decorations in our neighbourhood and felt my heart leap with the same joy Hope was experiencing. When we arrived home the first story Meredith heard was about the lights we had seen.

This month is filled with activity. There are preparations to be done and events to be attended. There are presents to be purchased and traditions to be observed. In fact the days leading up to the 25th are filled with almost too much to do. Which means that sometimes we forget to stop and look for the light which shines in the darkness and brings meaning and purpose to this season. Sometimes we get so preoccupied with what has happened or what will happen that we neglect to see what is happening right now.

For in this month we celebrate the birth of Jesus and how that changes our lives and our world. Everything else that happens, everything else that we do during this time can either deepen our faith and trust in God or it can distract us from seeing, knowing, and experiencing what is taking place. For a Saviour has been born for us and in this season we are called to open our hearts to what God is doing and open our eyes to see the difference Christ makes to the world.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas and may we together as a church witness to the light of God as we share that light with one another.

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

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at St. David's United Church in Cape George.

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service at St. James United Church.

9:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service at St. James United Church.

Come as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with special music, familiar carols and the stories of the Bible.



First Sunday of Advent:

Hope Graham and Hope Smith light the candle of hope.

Second Sunday of Advent:

The Sunday School Children sing.



Sunday School & Youth Group News

On September 13th a new Sunday School season began. We welcomed back old friends and were blessed to greet new friends.

We continue to use The Best of the Whole People of God curriculum and all are excited to spend time together on Sunday mornings where we learn about God and Jesus, share stories and laughter, sing together, and on special occasions share our gifts and talents with the congregation.

On Sunday November 1st the children and youth provided leadership for the morning worship service. The service was both uplifting and meaningful and we are all grateful to have such talent and enthusiasm among the youngest members of the congregation.

On December 6th the Sunday School children packed Christmas gift bags for the food bank. The

gift bags contain personal care items and it is hoped they will bring Christmas cheer and good will to our friends at the food bank. The Sunday School would like to thank the congregation for their help with this very worthwhile ministry.

On December 13th we welcomed children from St. Paul's Anglican Church to share our Sunday School time, which was spent making crafts and treats while enjoying good fellowship.

December 27th and January 3rd are inter generational Sundays and no formal Sunday School classes will be held. This will give everyone the opportunity to remain in church for the worship service.

The Sunday School children and the youth group wish to thank the congregation for their continued love and support of all our endeavours. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and much happiness in the new year.



ST. JAMES HOLY BAPTISM

Jacob Riley Brow, October 18, mother April Dawn MacPherson, father Craig Francis Brow

Mason Daniel Jones Veinotte, October 18, mother Jessica Danielle Anderson, father Brandon James Veinotte.

Elizabeth Katherine Farrell, October 25, mother Laura Elizabeth Venedam, father Colin James Farrell

A Trip Down Memory Lane with Betty Webber

In July, 1951, a shy (yes, I was!!) nineteen-year-old girl arrived in Aspen as a bride of the new United Church minister. At that time there were two manse and we were expected to live in each manse (a year at a time).

On my birthday this year I took a trip down memory lane, stopping to visit the Ellsworths at the manse in Aspen. It was like stepping back in time - the minister's office is still over the garage. I then went on to Sherbrooke, passing over Cochrane Hill where I remembered the many late nights driving from Sherbrooke to Aspen after a game of Hollywood. We went on the Sherbrooke where we had lunch and visited more old friends.

We were on a bit of a schedule but stopped by the St. Mary's River Association Education and Interpretive Centre. If you've never been there I highly recommend it - it's a tribute to so many, past and present. I was sure I could hear Ralph casting a fly into the river.

The afternoon was waning so after a quiet stop at Glenhill Farm it was on to Antigonish, where I caught the bus to Cape George.

This is a brief account of a memorable day. My thanks to Joyce, who helped make the day possible.

Note: Our first child, Andrew Douglas, was born in the Red Cross Hospital in Sherbrooke in 1955, but that's another story.

SAFE Readies for Immediate Arrival



By the time this newsletter goes to print, Antigonish town and county will be that much larger in numbers and in experience, for we expect very soon the arrival of two Syrian refugee families. The SAFE team is preparing on all fronts, procuring and preparing housing, housewares and furniture, meeting with the schools, scheduling medical care, etc. There are Arabic translators who have volunteered to help bridge the linguistic divide and a special team of volunteers will meet the new arrivals at the airport. There will be efforts made to orient them to our town with a tour, as well as guides to show them around the town and to introduce the families to the SAFE resources available to them as well as the recreational possibilities.

It will be a community experience as well. School for the youngsters and second language instruction for everyone will likely be the biggest, most immediate engagement for them. Fortunately the area schools as well as the People's Place Library will be hubs for all concerned. Thankfully we have ACALA to help with English as a Second Language.

There is enormous pride and gratitude at this time of year to know that our community understood this great need and supported it on so many levels. In fact, there is enough momentum to even plan for a third family in the spring.

Several members of the St. James congregation have been actively involved with SAFE since its inception, and many others have supported the various fund-raising activities and donated furniture and household goods to set up the homes. The open generosity and kindness of the people of Antigonish is definitely something we can all be proud of.



Holly Tea and Sale

St. James UCW held their annual Holly Tea and Sale on Saturday, Nov. 21. The event was very successful with the greatest ever number of people partaking of the delicious luncheon. Bargains were to be had at the New to You table, baking and Christmas treats were in plentiful supply and, as usual, the Silent Auction was busy up to the last minute. The children had a delightful time decorating cookies and making a craft. All in all it was a wonderful day with lots of smiles and laughter as everyone seemed to be in a Christmas mood.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Session Deals with Intemperance

The Session met in the Manse on January 2nd, 1876 and was constituted present with the Moderator; Messrs McDonald, Pushie, Grant, Chisholm, McMillan, H. Trotter.

The former minutes were read and sustained. It was agreed after this the minutes of each meeting be read and corrected at the end of said meeting.

The Session then considered the cases of A. M. Cunningham and Alex Cameron and Mrs. A. Cameron who were reported to be up to the sin of intoxication and agreed that the Clerk be directed to cite Messrs Cunningham and Cameron to appear before the Session to be held at the Manse on Tuesday next the 6th inst. at 2 o'clock P M and that Mr. MacDonald be appointed to deliver said citations to the parties and that he also see Mrs. Cameron and converse with her on the sin of which she is charged.

It was moved by Mr. Pushie seconded by Mr. Grant that there will be monthly sessional meetings for conference and prayer which was agreed to and the meeting adjourned Mr. MacDonald leading in prayer.

P. Goodfellow, Moderator



Laura Reddick, Sheila Davison, Rev. Peter, Agnes Calliste and Mary MacLean at the R.K. MacDonald Nursing Home in November.

Marlene & Gerrit Groenenberg

have been attending St. James United for a while, with Gerrit getting involved with the gardening projects on the church grounds last spring and summer and Marlene



helping with the Holly Tea and Sale. They are both eager to find other areas to engage in at St. James.

Gerrit was born in the Netherlands and came to a potato farm in N.B. with his family in 1981. Marlene was born in Antigonish, daughter of Lowell and Isabel Teasdale, also of Lower West River. Lowell Sr. was raised in St. James United Church. His parents were Murray and Jean Teasdale.

Jean later married Ellard Silver, both of whom were widowed. Ellard and Lucy Silver were also part of St. James. Isobel Teasdale was a daughter of William and Julia Smith. William was a distant relative of Bishop MacKinnon, founder of StFX University. The Smiths first came to Lower West River as pioneers. Marlene is the eighth generation to be on the Smith property.

Gerrit and Marlene met at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and graduated in '84/'85 with Farming Technology and Animal Science diplomas. They were married at St. James United on August 3, 1985 by Rev. Howard Clark. They then bought their dairy farm in Hoyt NB that year and sold it August 2014.

They have two children: Leo (23) and Sarah (21). Leo graduated from St. Thomas University in 2013 (Philosophy-Gender Studies) and Sarah will graduate from St. Thomas in 2015 (Sociology-Gender Studies). They both live and work in Fredericton, NB.

They bought Marlene's parent's house in August 2014, built a shop/barn for their horse, pony, cats, dog and chickens. Gerrit loves water sports, especially sailing. Marlene loves her horses and gardening. They ask that anyone from the congregation come visit them anytime and wish everyone a Merry Christmas!



This fall has seen lots of ringing by our handbell choir. Not only has the senior choir been busy ringing up a storm but we have just begun a new choir for the Christmas season. Six of our Sunday school children, Ben & Jacob Pollson, Ewan & Keira MacDuff, and David & Simon Nicholson have banded together under the leadership of Sheila Davison and Tara Nicholson, to form our very first chime choir. The hand chimes, or choir chimes, are similar to the individual notes on a xylophone with an attached mallet. They are easier to play than bells and are perfect for introducing children to the art of ringing. We have just begun meeting after church for practice and are busily working on a Christmas piece to be played on the final Sunday of Advent, December 20th. The kids are incredibly enthusiastic about playing and it's amazing how quickly they catch on to the technique. We are looking forward to showing off all they have learned in just a short time. Well done Chimes!

While the "Little Bells" have been getting used to ringing, the senior choir has also been hard at work preparing for our performance on December 13th and participation in the Christmas concert that evening. We have been fortunate enough to welcome a new ringer to our circle, Hope Graham, which brings our total up to twelve players and our wonderful director, Sheila. This has allowed us to expand the number of bells we can play and the pieces of music we can perform. From our Senior choir, we have pulled a group of six players to work on some small group pieces. We have just played at the Old Fashioned Christmas in Sherbrooke on November 28th which was an enjoyable, yet chilly experience. To ring in the New Year, the choir will be preparing pieces to attend a bell festival in Truro during the first weekend in June. It looks as though ten choirs from across the Maritimes will be in attendance and it will be an amazing opportunity to work on skills and see some outstanding performances. It looks like a wonderful year ahead.

Antigonish Signs Blue Dot Declaration

On Monday October 19th, 2015, Antigonish Town Council signed the Blue Dot Declaration making Antigonish a “Blue Dot Community”. This is a David Suzuki Foundation environmental initiative that is gaining support across Canada, and St. James United Church congregants had a part to play in that positive move. You should be proud! Note that Halifax signed too ... the day after Antigonish.

This is a campaign to have environmental protection enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We are one of the only developed nations in the world which does not recognize this important issue as part of our charter or constitution. One hundred and ten other nations do.

What is the plan? Across the country, Canadians believe in our inherent right to a healthy environment – clean water, fresh air, healthy food and a say in decisions that affect us. One by one, people like you are standing up to say that this right should be recognized.

Neighbours come together to change a municipality, town or city. This movement of Canadians calls upon their local communities to pass municipal declarations respecting people’s right to live in a healthy environment. Communities come together to change a province. This will inspire decision-makers across our provinces and territories to take notice.

With so many communities calling for action from all levels of government, the next step is to have the provinces follow suit and pass environmental bills of rights. The provinces come together to change our nation. When seven out of ten provinces representing more than 50% of the Canadian population have recognized our right to a healthy environment we turn toward the ultimate goal: amending the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canada recognizes our right to a healthy environment – clean air, fresh water and healthy food for all. This ensures that we all benefit from a healthy environment, world-class standards and a say in the decisions that affect our health. *



Muriel Kennedy and Doreen Smith along with many from our congregation and community attend the local march to make a statement to our government representatives on the eve of the climate change summit.

Please encourage your family and friends across Canada to consider starting a Blue Dot campaign where they live if one hasn’t already been started, to sign a hard copy petition in their own community if it already exists, and sign the on-line petition at www.bluedot.ca. Thank you for taking a stand and signing the petition!

In other local environmental news ... the town has opened up the town utility to net-metering (so residents with solar panels can sell power back to the grid) and is forming a new committee for a long-term energy plan. The county has also announced that it will purchase a 20 kw solar power system. Antigonish is going green!

In even more environmental news... the Social Justice Committee sponsored a screening of a local documentary by the Antigonish Climate Resilience organization on November 22nd. Thirty-eight congregation members were able to stay to view this interesting video. If you missed it, is available on line at www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYHNQj9lCyM. There is also more information on how climate change is directly impacting Antigonish at www.antigonish-climate.ca We also kept the congregation informed about events like the March for Climate Change on November 29th and encouraged people to contact local, provincial and national leaders in the build-up to the United Nations Paris Climate Change Summit.

Please take whatever steps you personally can to help our environment. Remember the words of one former United Church Moderator, Gary Paterson – “The time is now. It can no longer wait. There is no ‘Planet B’.”

*Text largely from the Blue Dot website: bluedot.ca

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Session Deals with Intemperance

The Session met in the Manse on January 6th, 1876 and was constituted with the Moderator, Messrs McDonald, Grant, McMillan, H. Trotter.

Mr. McDonald reported having delivered the citations to the parties as directed. Messrs Cunningham and Cameron came as requested to the meeting. Mr. Cameron denied the charges brought against him and the Session having no positive proof that they could bring forward to incriminate him, agreed to proceed no further but advised him on account of the rumour that was abroad, to stay back from the Lord's table at the first Communion to which Mr. Cameron agreed and left the Session.

Mr. Cunningham was then spoken to who acknowledged his fault and expressed sorrow for his sin and the Session through the Moderator admonished him and directed him to stay back from the Lord's table at the first Communion and Mr. McDonald led the Session in prayer in his and Mr. Cameron's behalf and Mr. Cunningham was dismissed.

It was also stated in the Session that Mr. John Chisholm was said to have been quite the worse of liquor lately. Mr. Trotter said at the suggestion of Mr. McDonald he had written to Mr. Chisholm upon the subject and that he called on him (Mr. Trotter) and denied the charge brought against him but Mr. McMillan assured the Session that he could not deny it and they appointed him to speak to Mr. Chisholm and advise him to stay back from the Communion table at its first sitting.

Mr. McDonald then reported having called on Mrs. Cameron who admitted she had given way to liquor to some extent but not so far that she had been blamed for but hoped she will never be found in that way again and Mr. McDonald was requested to advise Mrs. Cameron to stay back from the Communion table at the first sitting and the Moderator adjourned the meeting with a short prayer.

P. Goodfellow, Moderator

Adopt-A-Highway Comments: What Are the Effects of Litter?

Litter can cause a whole range of problems for everyone in our community.

- Litter discarded along our roads can travel into our rivers and oceans, where it causes harm to wildlife.
- Litter costs money.
- Removing litter from the environment costs Nova Scotia taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.
- Litter is a threat to public health.
- Litter attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria. Items such as broken glass and syringes can be health hazards in public places.
- Litter can be a fire hazard. Accumulated litter and carelessly discarded cigarette butts are potential fire hazards.
- Litter looks bad.
- Litter negatively affects a community's image, especially tourist locations.
- Litter attracts litter. Litter sends a message that people do not care for the environment and that it is acceptable to litter – not true!
- Litter can harm or kill wildlife. Plastic litter chokes and suffocates birds and marine life (fish, whales and turtles). Carelessly discarded containers trap small mammals.

Animals can be attracted to roadsides by litter as a possible food source, and can be hit by cars. Wildlife near the road also creates a hazard for passing motorists, cyclists, and motorcyclists.

Please think twice before you toss anything out your car windows or on the ground



CGIT REUNION AND VESPER SERVICE



If you had looked into the hall on the afternoon of December 6, you would have found sixty women milling about, spotting someone they knew, followed by hugs and laughter. The long planned for day had arrived and there we were, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Girls In Training. We learned some of the history of CGIT at St. James, we remembered the leaders as their names, dating back to the 1940s, were read. Some of the leaders



spotted their “girls” and those special times many years ago were recalled. A table of artifacts and many photos was a place where could be heard “Remember when...?” or “Look, there you are at camp or at one of the starvathons.” Old minute books were another source of memories. At 5 p.m. we sat down to



a catered meal and had another opportunity to meet and greet as each woman stood and said where she had attended CGIT. We came from as far as Fredericton, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Halifax and as near as Lochaber.

The highlight of the day was the Vesper Service which was held in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. Of all events that were part of the CGIT program it is the Vesper Service that first comes to the minds of anyone who was a CGIT member. As the candle lighting service took place, the repeating of the CGIT purpose, the singing of Joy To The World as we circled the church with our lit candles and then the moment which touched every heart – the singing of Taps in



the darkened church with only the lights from our candles, the window and wreath lights. This familiar ritual made each one of us for a brief moment in time feel like a girl again.

The offering of \$604.10 was given to the SAFE program to help with the expenses of bringing a refugee family to Antigonish. The influence of the CGIT affiliation with the Women's Missionary Society must have played a part in the strong response to this cause. We were trained well. Many meetings were held as we made arrangements for this event. The search for former members, gathering photos and artifacts, planning the meal, those who looked after registration, the making up of "goody" bags, are just some of the details that make up such a reunion. But special thanks must go to Betty Webber for suggesting we have this event and for the many hours she has put into it.

Thanks for the evening comrades.



Thirteen members of Ruth Unit

and Frances Eddie enjoyed a Christmas dinner at Maritime Inn on Dec 8th. Thanks for a good time everyone! Merry Christmas.

Christmas Message

After almost forty years of being away from Antigonish, it is so nice to be back home again. After my ordination I was posted to an ecumenical congregation, Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and United in northern Alberta. After that I was posted to a shared ministry in Shawinigan Grand Mère, Quebec. This was a joint ministry of the Anglican and United Church, Quebec Sherbrooke Presbytery and the Diocese of Quebec. In Shawinigan Grand Mère, a city of about thirty thousand people, only one half of one percent were English speaking. This was a bit of a culture shock, but I so enjoyed the experience.

In 1988 I was called to Valois United in Pointe Claire which is a suburb of Montreal. I enjoyed a wonderful eighteen years of ministry with these dedicated and hard working people. Eight years ago I was called to the position of Conference Personnel Minister for Synode Montreal & Ottawa Conference. I was deployed to three Presbyteries: Montreal, Quebec-Sherbrooke and Laurentien (A French speaking Presbytery). My job consisted of dealing with congregations in transition and crisis, the well being of ministry personnel, legal matters, formation for ministry, internships and so on. I was also associate minister at St. James United in the heart of downtown Montreal.

All of this was very demanding with long hours and much travel. However, it was also very rewarding and fulfilling. God has indeed blessed me in my ministry and I would do it all over again. Now that I am retired I look back with fondness on all the many years I was privileged to serve God and His people in our great United Church. I would like to thank reverend Peter and you, the congregation of St. James and St. David, for your lovely welcome to me. I am delighted to be home again with family and friends. As we prepare to greet the Christ child on December 25th, may all of you experience the hope, peace, joy and love of this holy season. God bless each and every one of you.

Merry Christmas
Reverend Doug Stewart

Dear Friends at St. James,

I am involved with the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society, in plans to create fourteen new, affordable housing units in Antigonish. We have been working for some years to develop the plan, learn how best to serve the needs, and understand the value of affordable housing to our community. I have been struck by the research showing the tremendous impact housing has on health, education levels, and health for families who have reasonable housing.

The greater community of Antigonish has made a tremendous effort to provide affordable housing, but it is surprising how much need there still is in our area. To this end I am including for your information the write up we have crafted to explain the plan and the need in the area. Please take a moment to read this article, and consider what we may all do to help with this effort.

Many thanks,
Brian MacLeod

The Situation in Antigonish

Antigonish is a university town whose population almost doubles during the school year. There are implications for our housing market, adding difficulty to the situation for people who live on low incomes in the community. Although the university is a major economic driver in our town and brings many benefits, competition for low-cost housing exists between university students and people living on low incomes.

"I just don't know how I'll be able to afford it. The money will have to come from my food budget."

Paying rent, paying for transportation or buying food become dire choices faced on a regular basis by families living on low incomes in Antigonish Town and County. When people can't afford a clean and safe place to live, their lives become that much more difficult.

Antigonish Affordable Housing Society

Families with modest means deserve safe, quality housing that they can afford. The members of the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS) have a deep interest in addressing the lack of housing in our community for people living on low income. Our group was founded to create affordable housing opportunities and to foster community support for the people who will live in our housing developments.

Our goal is to help break the cycle of poverty by providing access to affordable and energy efficient housing to residents of Antigonish Town and County who are struggling to make ends meet. In addition to keeping rent below market value, the AAHS is committed to creating environmentally friendly housing. A decrease in energy consumption is not only positive for the environment, but it also reduces costs for the residents, and can serve as an example to the rest of the community.

Having recently achieved charitable status, we are first and foremost working towards the construction of an energy efficient 14-unit building that will include a mix of one and two bedroom apartments, including some barrier-free units for persons with disabilities, and a community garden.

The AAHS has already received generous support from our friends in the community. The Antigonish Town Council passed a unanimous motion agreeing to sell property at 2 Riverside Drive to the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society for \$1 and the Municipality of the County has agreed to provide \$100,000 over five years.

Others who have supported the work of the AAHS include:

- The Antigonish County Adult Learning Association
- The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre
- The Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia
- The Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition

Those who are contributing to our current development include:

- The Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative
- The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha

- The Town of Antigonish
- The Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Impacting Lives

“I think this community is very proud, and I think that sometimes pride gets in the way of accepting the reality that actually is here.”

Having access to affordable housing brings a wide array of benefits into the lives of its residents. A house isn't just a physical structure; it is a reflection of the lives of the people who live in it.

Access to good quality affordable housing provides much-needed stability for families who are vulnerable and helps prevent homelessness.

Affordable housing...

...helps families save money to meet important needs or plan for the future.

...improves educational outcomes for vulnerable youth.

...contributes to better health by freeing up resources for food and other basic needs.

...leads to better school performance by reducing asthma symptoms caused by poor air quality, one of the leading causes of school absences.

...has a positive effect on surrounding property values when it is attractively designed and maintained. Also, constructing affordable housing benefits the local economy directly from the funds spent on materials and labour.

...promotes increased mental and physical health, improved quality of life and independence for seniors living on low income and people living with mental illness.

Most importantly, a good home also gives the people living in it a sense of identity and pride.

Our Home Campaign

Bringing the dream to reality also has a cost. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$2.13 million. In addition to construction costs, this includes

maintenance, insurance, utility fees and other project expenses. The value of the land from the Town has also been augmented by a five year grant from the County of Antigonish, an anticipated grant from the Provincial government, as well as some generous donations already received.

The Our Home Campaign must raise \$1,000,000 from private sector sources to realize the vision and the dream to provide affordable housing in our community for people living on low income. The campaign to raise these funds will enable the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society to bring new affordable housing options

Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000

Mortgage: \$700,000

County of Antigonish – Grant: \$100,000

Town of Antigonish – Land: \$70,000

Anticipated Provincial Grants: \$150,000

Funds Raised – Confirmed: \$122,500

Total: \$1,142,500

Total Cost of Project: \$2,133,200

Conclusion

The Antigonish Affordable Housing Society is ready to act upon its goal of enhancing affordable housing in Antigonish. The organization is poised to go from emerging to surviving to thriving – charting a course that will help those in need of a roof over their heads and a place to finally call home.

Home is a place of security, comfort, and dignity. The Our Home Campaign will make sure that the people who live in this development won't have to choose between going hungry or paying their rent. No longer will they feel unsafe in their own homes or have to move so often. Never again will they have to shuffle between run-down apartments and houses, uprooting their lives and the lives of their children.

We hope that you will give the Our Home Campaign your most serious consideration. Your pledge will not only provide a home, it will change lives.

New Name, New Partners



The Antigonish International Potluck group has changed its name to Cultural Connections Antigonish. As a group it was clear that we have the interest and capacity to go beyond potlucks. The group recently catered a multicultural dinner for 100 people during the Antigonish International Film Festival, handling all aspects of this prestigious event: decorating, serving, preparing the food and managing all the intricate details. We will soon have a new Facebook page but for now mark your calendars because the next potluck is set for January 31st at St. James, at 5:30 p.m., at which time we hope to be able to welcome our new Syrian neighbours to the community.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

The tenth annual Guess Who's Coming To Dinner was held on October 25th, 2015. Eight host families entertained thirty guests, and from all reports everyone had a lovely evening. There were old friendships renewed and deepened, and new connections and friendships fostered as we enjoyed good food and conversation in relaxing and welcoming homes. The extra monies that were donated by hosts and guests totalled \$320, which has gone into the music fund of the church. Stay tuned for an announcement of 2016's Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.



St. James has a new Lion and Lamb sculpture on the site of the old elm tree. This work was created in Italy, using stone from Germany. Arsenault Monuments of Antigonish commissioned the piece for us, and guided the process. We are very grateful to Joe Arsenault for his fine work.

Members of the congregation and members of the community who wished to have this sculpture, with its message of peace, have volunteered to pay for the entire cost, so that there is no cost to St. James. Many thanks to all who contributed or will contribute. If sufficient funds are raised we will place a plaque or story board on the site in the spring, which will tell the story of the Lion and the Lamb for future generations.

The following is an excerpt from the December 6th, 2015 bulletin when the statue was dedicated.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ~ Isaiah 11:6

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord. ~ Isaiah 65:25



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