



# CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 10 Issue 4 • Winter 2016

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

The sanctuary at St. James is warm, inviting, and filled with history. The colours and images of the stained glass windows are a treat for the eye and mind. The activity and excitement of people gathering on Sunday morning embraces us as we come through the doors. There is a sense of the generations who have worshipped as we gather to offer prayers and songs to God. I can't imagine anything that would make our sanctuary a better place to worship.

Yet on the first Sunday of Advent the richness is enhanced as the decorations and symbols of the season appear on the walls, at the front, and on the communion table. The nativity scene helps us consider and reflect upon the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem so long ago. The vibrant reds and greens tell of the life Jesus brings us by his death upon the cross. The wreaths show us the unending nature of God's love and grace. The lights shine as witnesses to the light of God breaking forth in the world. The trees bring to mind the tree of life in Genesis and the trees for the healing of the nations in Revelation.

Through Advent and Christmas, we gather in hope, seeking peace, finding joy, and knowing the love of God. We come to thank God for Jesus Christ and share all that we know and believe with each other and the world. Surrounded by the decorations and symbols of the season, we sing the Christmas songs which allow the story and promise which is ours in Jesus to come again into our lives.

May God richly bless us this Advent and Christmas season and may we, as people of faith, respond to God's gift of Jesus by lives of service, generosity, and faith.

Yours in Christ's Service.

The Rev. Peter A. Smith

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."*

*Luke 2:5 (ESV)*



## *Christmas Services*

### *Saturday, December 24*

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

St. David's United Church in Cape George

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

St. James United Church

9:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

St. James United Church

### *Sunday, December 25*

10:30 am Christmas Day Service

St. James United Church

Everyone is welcome to bring something they received for Christmas for Children's time as we listen to the familiar story and sing Christmas carols.

*Come on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with special music, familiar carols, and the stories of the Bible.*



## *Holly Tea and Sale*

The St. James UCW held their annual Holly Tea and Sale on Saturday, November 19, 2016. Our church hall, meeting room and even our store room was packed with happy, smiling faces enjoying our delicious tea, picking up bargains on the new-to-you table and in the Christmas room, drooling over goodies on the bake table, and bidding at the silent auction. The children were having fun in a corner of the sanctuary decorating cookies, making a craft, and enjoying their lunch.

A special plea was made for jewelry a couple of weeks before the sale. The ladies of the congregation really came through and we were overrun with beautiful pieces for the jewelry table. This was our second year of clearing out our storeroom and transforming it into The Christmas Room. Everyone loved the idea so I think this practice will be a keeper for years to come.

So many people volunteered to work in one capacity or another and donations for the sale tables poured in. Without the workers and the donations there would not be a sale. This is the UCW's major fundraiser of the year and this year our profit was over \$5200, up by over \$2000 from last year.

*Thank you, one and all.*



# Youth Involvement

One of the goals of Christian education is to prepare the young to become involved in the day-to-day operations of the church. Their participation in worship services adds a special dimension to the service, and St. James has been privileged to see the growth and development of many young people through the years. Of course, this is only possible through the hard work of our Christian educators, whose efforts behind the scenes give our young the confidence to take their place before the congregation.



# INFO FAIR DEEMED A GREAT SUCCESS

On Anniversary Sunday (October 23rd) the Communications and Outreach Committee tried something new. For the very first time, they invited all the church groups within St. James United to explain and promote their work to the congregation at large.

On paper this appeared to be an easy task but in reality it meant coordinating all twenty-three groups (yes, 23!) and convincing each one to prepare a table display after church and, through talk and display, to showcase their individual activities. The set up included lining both sides of the church hall with tables and labels, with the inside area equipped with toys, mats, and balloons for children to play with while their parents circulated among the displays. The Hot Meal Programme served a very nourishing and tasty soup to sustain all comers and many of the church groups also provided snacks and refreshments, a design to lure folks over to view and discuss the groups' activities.

The participation was impressive. No group declined and all had something to share. The Senior Fellowship group probably saw the greatest impact, with ten new members interested in signing up. But it

soon became clear that within our small church a lot does go on that perhaps people don't know about.. For instance, it might be new to many that we now have Marlene Groenenberg as a church archivist. Also, it is more than gratifying to learn of the many projects that our Sunday school and Youth group are involved in. Given the keen interest shown in this inaugural event, it stands to reason that Information Fairs will be an annual occurrence. It is clear that people enjoy the personal touch of learning about activities that take place within the church from people who are



already invested in them. Enthusiasm is contagious, and knowing the names of the different groups and having a contact person at hand is bound to increase participation.

Another novel dimension built into this Info Fair was the creation of a space for a Wish List. Sarah Armstrong set up a special table inviting input from attendees about what other activities people would like to see at St. James. The Info Fair gave us, on Anniversary Sunday, a sense of who we are and also what we would like to be in the future.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE SESSION MET AND WAS constituted on October 11, 1874. Present with the Moderator, Messrs McDonald, Grant, Burnside, McMillan Pushie, Chisholm and Trotter.

The Session spoke of some of the members of the Congregation who were reported to have been walking inconsistently with the profession they have made and considered what steps would be most prudent to adopt in their case.

Mr. Trotter stated the Mr. Robert Crockett had confessed to him that he had fallen into sin and wished to have his case laid before the Session as he intended leaving the country and wished to have the privilege of joining a church on the place he went to. The Session having no time to consider the case, to take it up after Divine Service

Same day after Divine Service the Session resumed its sitting and took up Robert Crockett's case and after some deliberation on it, it was resolved to keep the Session until the following Monday at half past one o'clock P.M. and that the Clerk cite Robert Crockett to appear before them at that time.

Monday, the 13th the Session resumed its sitting. Present with the Moderator, Messrs McDonald, Grant, Burnside McMillan, Pushie, Chisholm, Cameron and Trotter.

Mr. Crockett having come before the Session, his case was taken up when he acknowledged that he had been guilty of fornication with a Miss Copeland, a member of this congregation who had left this place shortly after said occurrence had happened.

The Session commended Mr. Crockett for the course he pursued in bringing the case before them but as he had injured the character of a young woman of previously good reputation and made no reparation for said injury and as he had been absent from the country since said occurrence until a few days ago and intended in leaving in a few days more, the young woman being also absent, the Session did not feel themselves to be in a position to deal with the case and at the suggestion of Mr. McDonald, the Moderator led the Session in prayer on behalf of Mr. Crockett and dismissed him.

There being no other business before the Session it was adjourned. The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

*P. Goodfellow, Moderator*



*Advent ~ L'Arche*



*Bell Choir ~ Prayer Shawls*



*Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*Luke 2:14*

## Contacts for the groups within St. James United Church:



BELL CHOIR: Tara Nicholson	902 735 2757
BIBLE STUDY: Rev. Peter Smith	902 863 2859
SENIOR CHOIR: Christine Morrison	902 863 5103
WOMEN'S CHOIR: Christine Morrison	902 863 5103
MEN'S CHOIR: Peter Rawding	902 863 4226
PASTORAL CARE: Christine Morrison	902 863 5103
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Ida Sarty	902 863 3521
COMMUNICATION / OUTREACH: Fran Wittgens	902 863 3546
MEDITATION GROUP: Fran Wittgens	902 863 3546
MEN'S CLUB: Robert Murray	902 863 3179
SR.FELLOWSHIP GROUP: Robert Murray	902 863 3179
LIBRARY: Marilyn Gerriets	902 863 8160
ARCHIVES: Marlene Groenenburg	902 863 0078
PRAYER MINISTRY: Marilyn Swim	902 735 2438
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Mavis Murray	902 863 3179
NEWSLETTER: Brenda Rose	902 867 1587
HOSPITALITY: Betty Webber	902 863 1301
HOT MEAL: Betty Webber	902 863 1301
UCW: Joanne MacKenzie	902 867 5724
SOCIAL JUSTICE: Marilyn Gerriets	902 863 8160
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: Fran Wittgens	902 863 3546

# ST. JAMES' WISH LIST

The United Church of Canada's 91st anniversary gave us the opportunity to celebrate our heritage and to look back at events and achievements of the congregation of St. James. While sharing the life and work of our church with each other at the info fair, the Communications and Outreach Committee solicited suggestions and "wishes" from the congregation. We got a surprisingly diverse collection of ideas that we hope will be the seeds that grow new projects and groups.

Many suggestions related to supporting and building the Youth Group. From the suggested installation of a basketball net in the driveway, to hosting a Youth Summit of multi-faith youth groups in the region, there is clearly an interest in putting resources into developing youth programming. The idea was pitched to reach out to high school students by asking the music classes to contribute their musical talents at our services. The youth will be our leaders in the coming years, and there is an interest in helping our young people connect to their faith and to each other.

The theme of community-building came up in many suggestions as well. There is a desire to keep close tabs on the health and well being of our members, and to be organized to offer help when needed. Another suggestion is to teach "civility" while celebrating our diversity and differences. This welcoming spirit comes through in other suggestions as well, such as making it easy to reach out to new people to do readings or greet at the door. Many people spoke of the importance of StFX and Coady students, and continuing to work to reach out to those who may find a "home away from home" at St James.

The Wish List table was very successful in engaging the congregation, although there are likely a great many more ideas that we probably didn't ferret out. So, please send your ideas to [office@stjamesuc.com](mailto:office@stjamesuc.com) or post on our Facebook page. Let's put our heads together and make St. James a part of more people's lives.

## Holy Baptism 2016



*Franklin John Hall*

Lacey Gillis and Benjamin Hall

*Archie David Melvin Tate*

Erin Trenholm and Larry Tate

*Milene Mary Mai Shawana*

Theresa Gillis and Jason Shawana

*Paton Anna Mary Scott*

Jody Richardson and Michael Scott

*Brooklyn Ruby Mae Foster*

Trina White and Rocky Foster



## CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for St. James United Church

St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish, NS  
Phone: (902) 863-2001 • Email: [st.james@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:st.james@ns.sympatico.ca)

[www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)