



# CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 6 Issue 2 • Summer 2012

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

## Dear Friends in Christ,

While I was driving home from Maritime Conference earlier this month, I realized that five years ago I came to speak to the search committee about being the minister at St. James. I find it hard to believe that much time has passed because it still feels like I have just arrived. Yet when I stop and think about it, I am also amazed that so much has happened since our move.

Meredith and I are pleased we are living and ministering in this area. Looking back, I think that much of the joy we feel is because we made the decision to trust, believe, and allow God to bring us to somewhere new. For I remember very clearly that in 2007 the decision to leave everything we knew and were enjoying was difficult and frightening to make. Yet instead of focusing on the uncertainty, we chose to have faith that God would lead us to where we needed to be.

I honestly believe that as we find our way in faith as a congregation there will be times when we will have to risk, trust, and believe that God is guiding us into the unknown. Yet those times need not be occasions of fear and worry but can instead be an opportunity for us to grow as a church. For when we follow as Jesus calls us, when we give, share, serve, and build opportunities for the gospel to be seen and felt then the changes, decisions, and new undertakings in our life are simply another step along the way Christ calls us to walk in Antigonish.

What the future holds may not be known to us but we can always be sure that God is with us when we prayerfully and joyfully live as Christ's Church.

*May God bless you, your family & our life together;  
The Rev. Peter A Smith*

## Sunday School News

The Sunday school closing service was held on June 17th. The Sunday school teachers, children and youth participated in the service which included special music, readings and prayers as well as a presentation to Ida Sarty for her hard work and dedication. Ida, in turn, thanked the teachers and students for their contributions to the successes of the past year.

Following the service the congregation was invited to a reception in the hall to celebrate the year with a barbeque, cake and ice cream as well as games for the children. All of those involved with the Sunday school wish to thank the congregation for their love and support throughout the year. “Enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing everyone when we begin again in September.”

This is a prayer the children wrote:

*We start with thanks and then give praise  
For all your kind and loving ways.  
We will travel where you lead:  
We will help our friends in need.  
With your help we'll learn and grow,  
And to others your love we'll show.  
Thanks for Sunday school each week,  
Help us find what we seek.  
Link every one's heart,  
So that we will never be apart.  
Thank you for families, Fathers and Mothers  
Sister and Brothers and all the others.  
Jesus Christ died on the cross  
And to all of us it was a great loss.  
He came back to life to be our friend  
So that His love for us will never end.*

# THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## Revised Plan

Your Capital Campaign Committee continues to work away at their mandate, with your instruction and support.

It has been a good process, giving as many people as possible a chance to share their ideas and participate in where we are going with the church, both with its buildings, and with how those buildings serve the greater purpose of the congregation.

You will remember that we started by visiting our mission and vision, and ensuring that the work we were doing as a committee was in sync with the overall vision of St. James. This is significant because it gave us a compass with which to make decisions. We could then decide on very tangible things like “which item is a priority over another”, by referring back to the overall mission. That meant that we didn’t add a room to the proposed renovation plan, just because we had the space. Rather, we had to decide what the best use was for the space, as determined by the needs of the congregation. The determining factor becomes our real need, not how pretty we could make a space, or by some catchy new idea which was not well thought out.

It has also caused us to spend many hours thinking about our responsibility to future generations, giving thought to their needs, and the duty not to leave them a large debt.

With all this in mind, we went through the now familiar process of focus groups, congregational meetings, floor plan reviews, and exploration of ideas as the process stimulated thinking. In a truly amazing contribution by many, many people, the plan gradually took form, and we now have what seems to be the best options available, given all factors. Next the consultants were hired as approved by our congregational meeting, and are beginning their work.

Now comes one of the most important legs of this process, the raising of the funds. Your committee needed to find a very capable fund raising committee to carry out this most important of functions. To complete this task, Harley MacCaull was approached to head the process. Your Council approved the

appointment, and Harley, always quick out of the starting gate, has already spoken to the congregation, organized his committee and started his work. The remainder of this article will address the fund raising process.

Brian MacLeod

Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

*St. James Capital Fund Raising Committee has been formed. Members of the committee are: Harley MacCaull, (chair), Gordon Morrison, Beryl Publicover, Hope Graham, Minoli Amit, Roy Murray, Allan Farrell, Catherine Murray, Sally Van de Weil and Wendy MacCaull.*

*We have begun meeting under the direction of RBR Development. We are working out the details of a Case for Support, the process of asking for donations and a process that will communicate how dramatically our church community will affect the lives it touches as a result of the money raised during this campaign.*

*While some money has already being gifted to the campaign, we are working towards a public launch of The St. James Capital Fund Raising Campaign in the first week of September 2012. The preparation work will be completed over the summer months.*

*Please do not hesitate to approach me if you have immediate questions.*

*Harley MacCaull, Chair, Capital Campaign Fund Raising Committee*





*Sunday School*  
Welcomes the coming of Summer



## DID YOU KNOW?

### LIGHTING

Our sanctuary is lighted by 25 three hundred watt bulbs. The system is so antiquated that the original style of bulb has been discontinued and we now must use an adaptor to accept a newer style. For now, we are stuck with this system, but there is now on the market a 7 watt LED bulb that will give the brightness of a 70 watt bulb. It is hoped in a short time a product for our use will be available.

### HEAT

The heat in the sanctuary is supplied (in addition to the 25 three hundred watt bulbs) by a hot water system that is about 100 years old. While it looks the worst for wear, it does use a cast iron boiler that could last for a long time. Annual maintenance shows that there is currently no reason to replace the furnace.





On May 27th the Park Bench Players performed their production, *With a Little Help from My Friend* to an enthusiastic audience. It's no surprise how immediate it was for the audience. There is an unwritten text that we're all normal. But the truth of the matter is that most of us aren't. Mental illness is common but in the past it hasn't been acknowledged. With the help of Jim Mulcahy and the Parkbench Players we are invited to understand and support those who are dealing with the condition. This production that has

been successfully presented in schools, community halls and churches for the last year shines a light on the hopes, dreams and challenges of individuals with mental illness. The drama laced with humour, poetry and song brought home the very personal message of acceptance and community. The St. James Social Justice Committee which sponsored the event presented to each member of the cast plus the director, Jim Mulcahy, an original work of art by Anne Camozzi.

## A MOMENT OF TRUTH: **KAIROS PALESTINE**

Having recently completed the Ecumenical Three-Session Study, *A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine*, which we co-led, we can report very positively. Our study was truly ecumenical, with Quaker, Roman Catholic, Anglican and United Church participation. This gave it a very interesting and energizing dynamic, commented upon by several of the group, who appreciated the rare opportunity to be together in this way. Each person had a copy of the Study Guide to the Kairos Palestine Document for Canadian faith communities, produced by the Canadian Churches' Forum and distributed by Partners in Mission of the United Church of Canada. They also had copies of *Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace*, published by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. This latter is an excellent resource, and includes a very helpful DVD.

The group was receptive and involved, and there was lively discussion each week. As an assembly of

people of faith, we opened and closed each session with a prayer, and it was clear that the participants valued both the Christian nature of the Palestinian document and the Christian nature of our gathering.

We highly recommend the study, with the proviso that the leader(s) have some knowledge of the history of the conflict. There are many excellent resources - United Nations and others.

Betty Marmura and Sara AvMaat

(Betty is a retired United Church Minister and Sara is a Quaker who participated last year in the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. Both live in Antigonish, NS).



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# *UCW 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner*



## HOLLYWOOD

by Betty Webber

Many years ago, when games such as cards, etc. were not played on Sunday, we were introduced to a wonderful, fun game called Hollywood. We were living in the Aspen/Sherbrooke area at the time and often, after the evening church service, we would gather for lunch and conversation.

It was at one of these gatherings that we were introduced to the game of Hollywood. The problem was this – we wouldn't dare play it on a Sunday. So...we all waited until midnight to play the game. The instructions were simple – each person had a pencil and paper, drawn with squares. Across the top, everyone wrote a word, chosen by the group, for example, EASTER. Down the side of the paper, categories were chosen such as birds, cars, countries, songs, etc.

The game began with each person finding a bird that began with the first letter, in this case E. After a time limit, each person called out their choice and

each answer was awarded points. When more than one person had the same answer, fewer points were given. The game continued until all categories were covered.

At first, everyone was very competitive and serious about his or her answers. However, the fun began when someone with a sense of humor was challenged because he named "LITTLE alder bird" beginning with the letter "L" when everyone knew there was no such bird!

The answers became very original, challenged on every side, but what fun it was.

The game has been played at house parties, Church Fun Nights and any many other gatherings. The Seniors Group at St. James plays it on occasion.

I have such fond memories of the many times spent playing Hollywood, the late night fun, the late, late, drive over Cochrane Hill at 3 am, and the young bank and his wife who introduced us to the game.

Instructions may be unclear so if anyone is interested talk to someone who has played.



## Stump Frolic June 2012

## From the Archives Doctor Turns Down Eldership

At the Manse on Saturday the sixth day of October 1876 at 2:00 P.M., the Session met and was instituted with prayer, Present the Moderator, Duncan Chisholm, Nathan Pushie, and John McDonald, Elders, Mr. Charles Harrington and Dr. John McDonald who had been elected by the congregation on the Saturday previous to the office of the Eldership being present. Moderator stated to these brethren that they were elected to the office of the Eldership and asked for a declaration of their willingness to accept. Mr. Harrington in replying said it was his duty to accept and did so accordingly.

Dr. John McDonald felt it was his duty to decline the office. On his being asked if he had any objections to stating his reasons, he said no and gave his reasons as follows:

1) He was a comparative stranger to the congregation and he thought it was better to wait till he was better known before accepting of that office.

2) In as much as his practice did not lie among Presbyterians he did not see how his holding the office of an elder could further his usefulness among them; and as to other Protestant denominations he

believed it would be an injury to him professionally.

3) There had been reports circulating about him reflecting on his honor as a professional gentleman. On one of these reports an unfavourable impression had been created he believed in the minds of the congregation generally against him, and until this was cleared up and his honor vindicated, which he hoped would be by a longer residence among them, he felt it would be unwise to take the office.

The members of the Session in turn and the Moderator endeavoured to dismiss the objections in the mind of Dr. McDonald to his acceptance of office and to show him that the reasons he assigned were utterly inadequate and as the Session believed entirely groundless, but he still adhered to his decision adding that what was to him an evidence of a feeling in the congregation against him was when Dr. Wm. McDonald was away on a consultation wanted instead of calling him Dr. John in, they called a Catholic Doctor or sent for a Protestant Dr. from a distance. A good deal of time having been occupied and some members of Session anxious to get away, the Session deferred the examination of Mr. Charles Harrington to a future meeting and closed with prayer.

*John McMillan. Clerk*

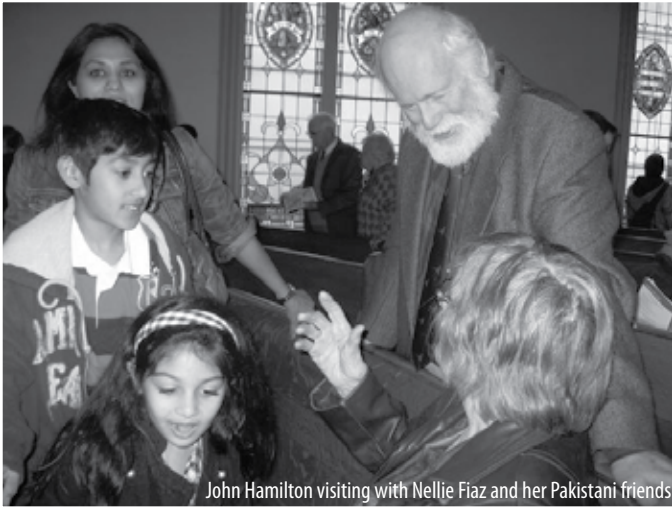




An occasion for Anne Camozzi's family to enjoy together

# A Community Celebration!

**April 22, 2012**



John Hamilton visiting with Nellie Fiaz and her Pakistani friends



Many visitors from the RK MacDonald Nursing Home



Dancer Sarita Ghore preparing audio



Puppeteers Breanna Scott and Grace Poole



Bart Wainwright's popular display of natural wood sculptures



St. James table and AEC Art on display for Earth Day



Readers, Puppeteers with Director, Sharon Whitmee

# St. James Men's Club

Allan Farrell, Chair

The annual Ladies Night Lobster Supper was held on May 28 at St. James Hall with thirty three people in attendance. The lobsters were ordered by Harland MacLeod from a local fisherman and people in attendance provided salads and desserts. This event is usually the last regular meeting of the Men's Club before the summer break and an opportunity to thank those who support our work throughout the year. Normally only attended by members of the Men's Club and their wives it is open to all people in the congregation. This year we were pleased to welcome three additional ladies from St. James.

Our next event was the barbecue at the Stump Frolic.

The Men's Club will start again on September 24th. with a pot luck meal.



## FALL HAPPENINGS

A Celebration of Fifty years of the United Church Women, Past, Present and Future at the Cape George Heritage School Museum on Saturday, September 15 from 10:00am – 3:00pm (watch for additional information in the bulletins)

St. James UCW will be holding their annual fall yard sale on Saturday, September 29th. We will be accepting donations in September only. Please remember that we do not accept non-seasonal items as we have no place to store them until the following spring. We will no longer be accepting the old-style TV's as they do not sell. Further information will be forthcoming in early September.

**GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?** This popular event is once again in the planning stages for the fall. Watch the weekly bulletins for the date. If you have not yet taken part in this event, either as a host or a guest, you have missed out on a wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship with other members of the St. James community.

October 28th. – St. James will hold a special service to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Church Women.

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**Stump  
Frolic  
June  
2012**