



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 6 Issue 1 • Spring 2012

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

(Romans 6:4)

Dear Friends in Christ,

It seemed to happen overnight. One moment we were in the grip of the cold bitter days of winter and the next the snow was melting and the days were longer. And although there is still snow and some cold days before summer, the grip of winter seems to have been broken. Spring with its promise and hope, arrived in an instant while we were lost in the days of winter.

On the first Easter, word spread very quickly that Jesus had risen from the grave. With that good news, the cold winter of fear and despair was suddenly changed. God had shattered the chains of sin and sorrow. Death now gave way to life. In an instant, the light of the resurrection broke through the darkness surrounding hearts and minds. Jesus Christ rose from the grave and opened the way to eternal life for all God's people!

In the church, we rejoice that God released us from the grip of death and that there is life, eternal life, for the future and new life right now. We celebrate and rejoice as the warmth of God's love is seen and felt and experienced through the wonder of God's actions at Easter.

We are never without that good news in our lives. But when we feel the chill of fear, when the storms of life close around us, we need to hear again "Christ is Risen!" and see for ourselves the victory which brings us salvation and new life. We need to experience the

empty tomb and feel that joy and excitement in our hearts.

I would invite you to come and share with us again the good news of the resurrection and the new hope we find in Jesus Christ. We will hear of Christ's great love for us on the cross and witness again the miracle of his resurrection. Join with us as we celebrate the Good News of the Resurrection again this year at Easter. For Christ has Risen!

May God bless you and your family during the holy times of year and may God continue to bless our church as we strive together to live the good news of Jesus Christ.

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

Services Holy Week & Easter

April 1, 2012 Palm Sunday, 10:30 am

We shout our Hosanna's as Jesus enters Jerusalem and then celebrate together the Lord's Supper.

April 5, 2012 Maundy Thursday, 7pm in the Hall

Come gather around the Table as together we remember and re-experience the meal Jesus shared in the Upper Room

April 6, 2012 Good Friday, 10:30 am

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

APRIL 8, 2012 EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 am on the Bethany grounds.

As the sunrises, voices and prayers blend to give thanks for the Resurrection. Following the service there is a pancake breakfast in the church hall hosted by the Men's Club.

10:30 am Easter Sunday service

BEHIND THE SCENES *with* **St. JAMES MEN'S CLUB**

The Men's Club at St. James is a busy group of approximately twenty of the men in the congregation who are dedicated to the success of many of the events in the church. Allan Farrell, who presently serves as Chair of the Church Council, has served as President of the Club since 1995. He is supported by a hard working executive, which includes Bob Day as secretary and Bob Murray as treasurer.

Attendance at their monthly dinner meetings averages ten to twelve members. Friendship and fellowship are key ingredients of these meetings and a number of the members have belonged for most of the years since the Club began in the mid-1950's. The members were saddened by the deaths of several long-standing members this past year, Ray Reeves, Stubbert McHattie, Angus MacMillan and Bill Reddick. Their valuable contributions over the years will be remembered with respect and many happy memories.

The Club's biggest event, and certainly the most visible in the community, is the annual Lobster Supper, a fixture in Antigonish since the first supper was held in November of 1979. The following year the event was changed to March and has continued as a spring event ever since. At first, it was a supper starting in the late afternoon but had to be changed to the noon hour one year due to an impending snowstorm. The timeframe worked well and has remained at that time ever since. As we know times and prices have changed over the past thirty years. It is interesting to note that the first meal had a price tag of \$5.50.

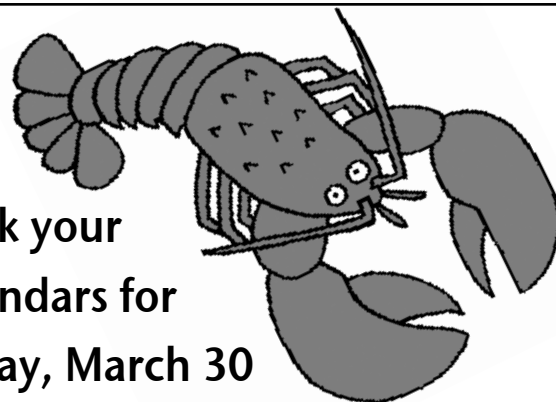
More than six hundred meals of lobster, salads, rolls and desserts are prepared and distributed each year. This undertaking, although spearheaded by the Men's Club, would not be executed without the help of many others in the congregation. The women of the UCW are certainly key contributors to the event as are many others at St. James who contribute time and talent in order to carry out the tremendous effort that goes into this annual event. The kitchen and hall at St. James buzzes with activity for several days in order to turn a seemingly endless supply of lobster, potatoes and other vegetables, hundred of rolls and a variety of desserts into a veritable feast. This year the event will be held on Friday, March 30th.

The financial success of this tremendous effort makes it possible for the Men's Club to make a number of generous donations to the church and community. They give an annual scholarship to a graduating student at the local high school, donate to the Benevolent Fund at St. James and this year were able to contribute hand bells for our newest musical group. In addition, this past year they gave \$3,000.00 to the General Fund at St. James.

They add to the Easter Sunday celebrations by cooking a delicious pancake breakfast for the congregation following the Sunrise Service and do their part in the success of the Stump Frolic (now called the St. James Fun Day) by cooking hot dogs for the crowd.

They recognize the contribution of the women in their lives (who provide most of the dinners for the monthly meetings) by holding an annual Ladies Night – a lobster supper.

All men in the congregation are welcome to join their group. If you are interested, please speak to Allan Farrell, president of the club or any member.



**Mark your
calendars for
Friday, March 30**

**You can choose to join the
members of the Men's Club in
the church hall for a delicious
dinner or call after 9 AM (863-
2001) to place a "take out"
order, which can be picked up
at any time after 11 AM
Price - \$15.00**



As many of you know, St. James UCW was in a bit of a turmoil at the beginning of this year wondering whether it was worthwhile to continue as a functioning group. As our members age, it is becoming more difficult to find women who will take leadership in various ways, as well as workers for our many fundraising projects. New members are desperately needed to inject new life into the group. Some of the members completed surveys and many long discussions were held within the group. To quote one member, "When one of us hurts, we all hurt." We cry together, cook together and laugh together. We learn about each other's families, hear about children and grandchildren, weddings and deaths, differences in fashion are debated over tea, support is there when one is low and celebrations when one is high. Would that same feeling be there if we did not have this interaction with one another?" We hold program meetings that open our minds to people, places and organizations that otherwise we might not know about. In the end, it was unanimously decided that we do want to continue.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the United Church Women in Canada. We plan to celebrate this event with various activities throughout the year, both with the congregation and within our group. As well, one of our members will be attending the National UCW Celebration in Ancaster, Ontario in July. Next month we are planning a silent bake sale with the proceeds going to the Mission and Service Fund in memory of three of our past members who were so active in the UCW Ida Mason, Doris Archibald and Emily Sweet. On April 14, we will hold our annual spring yard sale. Later in the spring, we are planning a Queen's Silver Jubilee tea. In closing, if you would like to join our group or would just like more information about the UCW, please speak to Betty Webber or Barb Gardiner, co-chairs, or any member. We have an evening unit and two afternoon units that meet on the second Tuesday or Wednesday of the month. You would be most welcome in any of the groups.

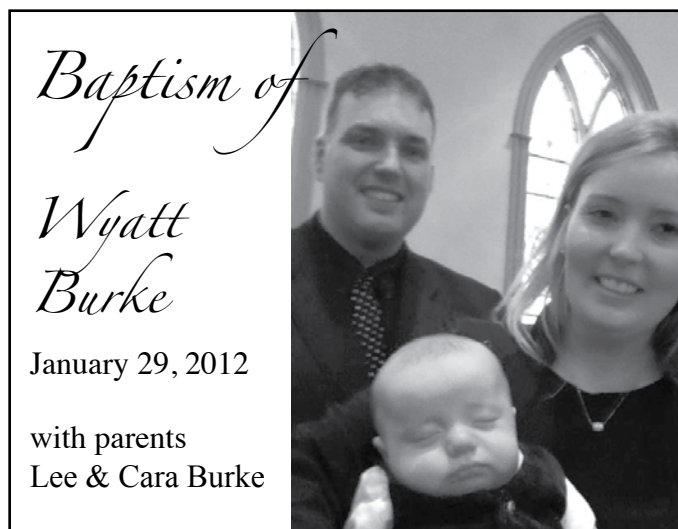
THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Revised Plan



A congregational meeting was held following the Sunday service on February 5th. The Capital Campaign Committee presented the revised plans for renovations at St. James and explained the next steps to be taken for the project. Dale Archibald answered questions concerning the final draft of the blueprints and Brian MacLeod informed the meeting that the next step will be the hiring of RBR consultants to train volunteers and supervise the fund raising campaign.

A meeting is scheduled for early April to have the congregation give final approval to contracting with consultants. Representatives from RBR Consultants will be in attendance.

Shown at the meeting are Fred Davison, Allan Farrell (Chair of Council), Carole MacIntosh, Brian MacLeod (Chair of Capital Campaign Committee), Sheumais MacLeod, Dale Archibald (member of the Capital Campaign Committee and architect) and Mike Redden.





Update

©Clipartsmart.com

We're "rooted." We've "branched out." We've even "twigged" on new ideas and combinations. It's all about trees for the upcoming Earth Day Service on Sunday April 22nd. This annual service organized by the Social Justice Committee has involved many from both the congregation and the wider community. Some of what you can expect to see during the service:

When you first enter the Narthex, you will be receiving a compilation of writing by members and friends of St. James. These diverse pieces reflect the full range of tree experiences from childhood to adulthood, to loss and celebration.

The Sunday School singing a song under the leadership of Emory Van de Wiel. You will also see the trees the Sunday school decorated under Diane Theuerkauf's guidance expressing what trees give Creation and what we can do in turn.

A reading (by Christine Morrison, Randy Lauff and Diane Theuerkauf) of the classic children's story called *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein will be accompanied by a shadow play under the direction of Sharon Whitmee. (with Breanna and Holly Scott as puppeteers)

An informal/interactive display is planned for after the service along with healthy food. Some of the many displays include:

A Tree with animal puppets that will be animated by some of the St. Paul's Anglican Church youth. Set in a comfortable nook in the Hall, children can play with these puppets and even use the cardboard tree to

give a home to some of the puppets.

Scott and Stewart will have a display about the value of real trees. There will be tree nurslings to give away.

Frank Gallant and Heather Mayhew are showing a DVD featuring their Outdoor Education Project

A 112 foot Friendship Scarf that wrapped the tall Elm tree in front of the RK MacDonald Nursing Home will be on display as well as pictures of the event from a few years ago.

The Heritage Museum will have a display of how trees have impacted our community.

The new photographers' group APX will have a continuous display of their breathtaking tree portraits.

Art on the subject of trees from the Antigonish Education Centre will be on display, thanks to their teacher Cindy MacPherson.

Bart Wainwright will have a collection of wood samples and object.

These and more! So we hope that you will plan to attend this service and stay for the display afterward. This is a perfect time to invite others in your neighbourhood or include friends of your children. There will be something for everyone!



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

www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm

Christmas Dinner

More than one hundred people enjoyed the second annual Christmas dinner at St. James this year – a 50% increase in participation over last year. Betty and Carolyn Webber attribute the success to having more time to prepare for the event with improved communications and community involvement. An invitation was issued to the international

students at St. FX who did not travel home for the holidays and about a dozen joined the festivities. Musical entertainment was a happy addition and everyone had a wonderful time. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday - with friends, neighbors and strangers who will become friends. Everyone involved with the meal was pleased by the coverage of the day by The Casket. We look forward to the growth of this event and thank Betty and Carolyn for their vision.



From the Archives Members Chastised by the Session for Intoxication

From the Minutes of the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church, September 29, 1876.

In the Manse at Antigonish September 29, 1876, the Session met and was constituted. Sederant the Moderator of Session (Rev. P Goodfellow) Messers John MacDonald, Nathan Pushie, Dr. Chisholm and John MacMillan, Elders. After devotional exercises the minutes of the two previous meetings were read and sustained.

Charles Cunningham appeared to answer to a charge of intoxication made against him. He acknowledged the correctness of the charge, expressed his sorrow and resolved an amendment through God's grace helping him. After suitable admonishing from the Moderator and elders he was dismissed. Mr. MacDonald reported that he had called on A. M. Cunningham Esq. about a report of his being intoxicated. He denied that he was drunk but admitted that he drank some. The Session not having full proof of to substantiate the rumours, dismissed the case. Mr. MacDonald also reported that he had called on Mr. & Mrs. Alec Cameron and was unable to see them. The meeting closed with prayer.

John MacMillan. Clerk

St. James hosts Coady Students

The members of the Outreach and Communications Committee were recently invited by the Coady Institute to host some of the sixteen women who were taking part in a Women's Leadership course. Most of the women were from African countries and they are taking part in an exciting new program designed to empower women to make a difference in their communities.

Fran Wittgens invited Faith and Tawani from Malawi to join her for lunch and, if interested, stay and spend some time with the women of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. As evidenced in the photos they were happy to accept this invitation and were very interested in the project, joining in with the fellowship and making a contribution by taking up some knitting needles.

Beryl Publicover, Nomsa Ingwe from Zambia and Maryhame Hanna from Egypt enjoyed dinner at the Main St. Café where they had a chance to chat with Andrew Murray and compliment him on the changes he has made to the restaurant.

After completing the first six weeks of their course (in the midst of our Antigonish winter), they have been placed in work projects in various countries other than their own. They will spend nine weeks in their placements where they will share their knowledge working with a variety of different organizations. Maryhame will spend her time in Nomsa's home of Zambia while Nomsa will work with an NGO (our version of a charitable organization) in Botswana. Faith has travelled to Egypt and Tawani to Tanzania.

They will return to Antigonish at the beginning of May for a further three weeks of classes before going home to use their education to empower other women in their communities.

We are hoping that these remarkable young women will be able to join us at St. James for a Sunday service during their stay.



Sunday School News

The Sunday school children are looking forward to participating in the Earth Day service on April 22nd. We have been learning a new song to share with the congregation.

Renovations are underway upstairs in the Sunday school rooms and we look forward to moving back upstairs for our Sunday morning gathering time. Many thanks to the Kell family for making these renovations possible, their generosity is in loving memory of Ida Mason.

St. James Sunday school

Social Justice ~ Thank You

The St. James Social Justice Committee would like to thank members of the congregation for their support of the 2011 Antigonish Gift Book. This was second year for the Gift Book, which encourages people to make donations to local organizations as gifts for family and friends, and participation in the project doubled from the previous year. Through the generosity of community members, over \$2400 was raised for local organizations. The Gift Book can be used throughout the year, and we encourage people to consider the gift of a donation as holidays such as Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day come along. Our committee will be issuing a 2012 Antigonish Gift Book in November, and any congregation members who would like to work on this project are encouraged to contact Gina Sampson at gsampson@stfx.ca



St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish • 863-2001
st.james@ns.sympatico.ca • www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm