



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 6 Issue 3 • Fall 2012

*No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no mind had conceived
what God has prepared...*

I Corinthians 2:9

Dear Friends in Christ,

This fall is an exciting time at St. James. We are welcoming new people to our pews and into the choirs. The UCW is celebrating fifty years of witness, service, and fellowship. The enthusiastic response to the fundraising for the Capital Campaign moves us even closer to a revitalized building.

Great things are happening within our church. On Sunday morning, we gather to worship and learn together. The rest of the week, our faith gets lived out through the groups, committees, and events which help us to both express and discover God's intention for our lives. Every action we take, whether among ourselves or by reaching out to others, reveals what we believe about God and the ministry that we are called to live. Some of those things are a continuation of traditions started in years past while others are new things we have never done before. All of them help us to be a strong and faithful presence in Antigonish.

Yet in faith, I believe that we are only at the beginning of what God has planned for us. Our past shows us the opportunity that change can bring, our present reveals the power of the Holy Spirit at work among us, and the future stands as a reminder that God's promises are only starting to be seen. We have been richly blessed and are experiencing the life which Christ calls us to lead even as we move towards something even greater. The exciting things today lead us to the wonderful times God has in store in the months and years ahead. May God continue to bless us in our journey of faith.

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

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

St. James has officially launched an \$850,000 Capital Campaign. The goal is to transform our church so it is more accessible, more functional, and more energy efficient.



Visit: stjamesuc.com

Saturday, October 27

• 9 to 11 AM • **Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up**

Sunday, October 28

• 10:30 AM • **UCW Celebration**

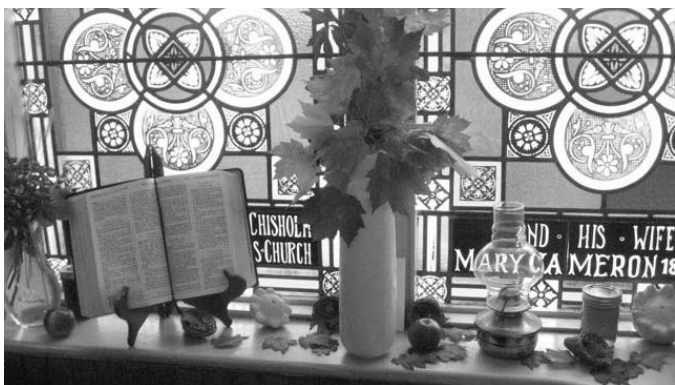
• 4:30 PM • **International Potluck Dinner**

Sunday, November 11

• 10:00 AM • **Remembrance Day**

Saturday, November 17

• 11:30 AM • **Holly Tea & Sale**



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship group at St. James was formed on September 18, 2008 with 18 inaugural members. At that time it was agreed that we would meet in the parlour from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month except for July and August and the programs would be designed for people 55 years of age or older. It was agreed that \$1.00 would be collected from each member in attendance at a meeting. These funds have accumulated over the past four years and we have been able to make contributions to the VON, Sleeping Children Around the World, and L'Arche Summer Program.

Our programs have included presentations by various members of the congregation about their trips and the group's memories of their childhood and work experiences. We have also invited speakers from community groups relating to health and care around the home.

Over the past four years we have journeyed to the Redden Gardens and the Museum at Cape George, the Sugar Moon Farm and taken a tour of Antigonish Landing with Bart Wainwright. Our most recent visit has been to the new L'Arche homes on Hawthorne St. The group has gone bowling on three occasions and have had several afternoons of cribbage and scrabble. We have enjoyed a meal of Chinese food at the Moonlight Restaurant as well as pot luck lunches in June

and/or September. Our gathering concludes with afternoon tea with sweets provided by members of the group on a rotating basis.

Our average attendance is 15 but we would welcome all members of the congregation in this age group to come and join us in our enjoyment of fun, food and fellowship along with some interesting presentations and the occasional trip.



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner 2012

The response of the congregation to the organization of this year's GWCTD event has been very positive and satisfying to the "Group of Seven". We have 10 hosts looking forward to hosting 48 guests on October 21st.

Each year "regular" hosts and diners join with "newbies" for an evening of companionship around the dinner table whether or not there are 2 guests or 8. Everyone has stories and experiences to share.

Michele Ashby, Brenda Botterill, Pamela Cunningham, Joyce Hilling, Mike Redden, Doug Hunter and Joyce Stephen share all the many ins and outs of the planning process. We meet over a shared lunch – which makes it doubly a pleasure to plan.

Our sincere thanks go to each and every person who has ever participated.

St. James Welcomed the



2012 Coady Participants

with a pot-luck dinner & songs following the September 16th service



Recipient of the Katherine Flemming Award



Pamela Obonde has made St. James her away-from-home church while studying at the Coady Institute. She teaches Sunday School in her home province in Kenya and was more than happy to volunteer to be a friend of St. James' Sunday School. She has many experiences which she's glad to share, especially working with women and children affected by HIV and AIDS. She is very interested in learning more about our ways. She adventurously attended our Guess Who's Coming For Dinner evening.

Sunday School News

A new year of Sunday school began on Sept 9th. Our covenanting service was Sept. 16th, and following the morning worship service the Sunday school hosted coffee and fellowship time for the congregation. On Sunday Sept. 30th we were very excited to have Pamela Obonde, a Coady student from Kenya, come and share her time with us. We look forward to having Pamela join us again.

As the new Sunday school year begins, we look forward to another season of sharing our time and talents with each other and those special times we share with the rest of the congregation as we continue on our journey of learning and growing together as God's children.

St. James enriched by Coady Participants

It is a pleasure to have Pamela (from Kenya) and Alesia (from the Cameroons) join our St. James community while they study at the Coady Institute. They have said how much at home they feel. Pamela is already working with Ida Sarty in the St. James Sunday School and Alesia enjoys singing.



l-r: Pamela, Pat Skinner, Alesia and Sonny

HOLLY TEA & SALE

November 17, 2012

It's that time of year again - Holly Tea and Sale time! The United Church Women (UCW) has once again started planning their annual Holly Tea and Sale to be held this year on November 17th. We will be having our bake table, frozen casseroles, fudge, pickles and preserves, so we hope all the pickle and preserve makers have set a few bottles aside for this purpose.

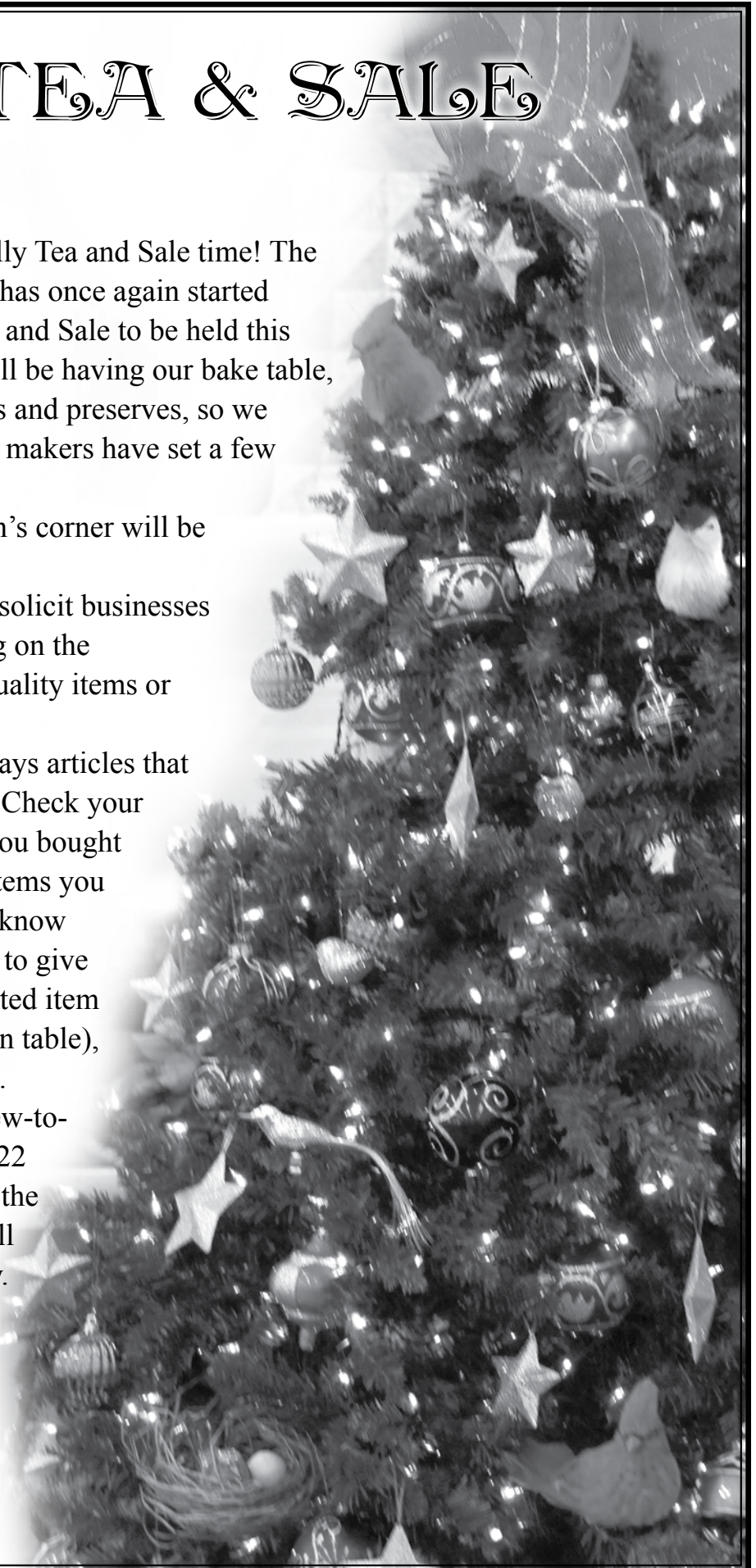
For the younger set, the children's corner will be available as well.

The Silent Auction does not solicit businesses for donations, so we're counting on the congregation to provide good quality items or services for people to bid on.

The New-To-You table displays articles that are either new or just like new. Check your closets and drawers for things you bought but don't plan on using, or for items you may have received as a gift but know you'll never use. If you're able to give an approximate value on a donated item (especially for the Silent Auction table), this would be much appreciated.

The drop-off dates for the new-to-you table will be from October 22 to November 2. This will allow the workers time to sort and price all the donations before the big day.

Stay tuned for more information each week in your church bulletin, and set aside November 17th for this popular annual event.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee capped off a good 2011/2012 season with a delicious pot luck luncheon meeting at Anne Camozzi's beautiful home. But we did not rest on our laurels throughout the summer, a number of ideas were percolating! Here are just some of the initiatives we are currently working on:

- organizing monthly pot lucks targeting Antigonish's international community – students and workers
- on behalf of the whole congregation, organizing an *Adopt-A-Highway* project to start at the end of October
- sponsoring two films in the *Antigonish International Film Festival* 19/20 October
- organizing the *Antigonish Gift Book* with an eye to promotion prior to Christmas
- writing letters in support of various worthwhile initiatives (such as the *Disabled Network in Antigonish*) or critical of government policies not in sync with United Church policies (generally dealing with poverty issues of housing, transportation, food security, etc.)
- participating in other local social justice projects and organizations such as the *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*, *World Food Day*, the *Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund* and the *Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition*

If you would like more details on any specific project, they will be provided in church bulletins and announcements. Or ask any member of our committee: Michèle Ashby, Anne Camozzi, Barbara DeMarsh, Hope Graham, Judith Jowett, Muriel Kennedy, Gina Sampson, Pat Skinner, Rev Peter Smith or Fran Wittgens.

As you can see we're a busy and diverse group. We continue to hold our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month in the parlour at noon. If you would be interested in supporting these outreach projects, please feel free to join us!

Poverty is not an accident.
Like slavery and apartheid,
it is man-made and
can be removed by
the actions of
human beings.



- Nelson Mandela



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for St. James United Church

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Vol. 6 Issue 3 • Fall 2012

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

www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm



St. James UCW hosted a gathering on Saturday, Sept. 15th at the Heritage School in Cape George. We were happy to welcome members from several UCW groups in neighbouring congregations. There were 30 women present. Jim Webber Cooke was the facilitator. Betty Webber welcomed everyone and introduced Jim.

Jim led us in opening worship and briefly outlined the plan for the day. The theme was Boxes, Baskets and Backpacks. It was a very different way to get us thinking and exchanging ideas. There were six tables with five at each table.

Session 1 - Boxes (The Past)

We were each given a box and told to reflect on what we should let go of and pack away and what we would like to take from the past and renew in our lives. We discussed our lists at the table and shared with other tables with Jim's help. The list of things we want to "let go" out of our lives we were to put in the box and Jim packed them all in a big box and threw it out. - those things are gone now!

- Coffee and Tea break.

UCW Conference in Ancaster, Ontario Michelle spoke to us on her experiences at the Conference. There were over 500 women there from all across Canada. The theme was "Tapestry" like our groups when cloth is woven some places are very strong, some are frayed, Some are weak, etc. It was very informative and thought provoking.

Session 2 - Baskets (The Present)

We were each given a basket and told to reflect on the present - what do we want to keep and what do we want to discard. We followed the same process with much discussion and put our discard lists in the basket and gave them to Jim and kept our list of things we wanted to continue to do. We broke then for a delicious lunch of chowder and soup with plenty of breads and biscuits and dessert with an opportunity to visit and chat together informally.

Session 3 - Back Packs (The Future)

We all received a recycle bag (very nice) and told that, this one, we could keep. This time we discussed things that we wanted to accomplish in the future. There was a lot of sharing of ideas that resulted in additions to each persons list. We kept these lists and put them in our bag along with the past list that we wanted to revive and the present list that we wanted to keep and/or improve on. Jim led us in a wonderful closing worship and we all received "loot" bags to take home with lot's of things in them.

Our thanks to the planning committee: Betty Webber, Michelle Ashby, Mavis Murray and Jim Webber Cooke. Jim was an excellent facilitator - keeping us active and interested with just the right amount of humour to break the seriousness of our list making.

It was a thought provoking day and a great way to start off our year!

Beryl celebrates her 90th with friends...



l-r: Satchi, Marilyn, Anu, Marie, Beryl, Anne, Fran, and Linda

The Tuesday Meditation Group surprised Beryl MacIntosh on her 90th birthday with a meditation gathering combined with a birthday celebration.

Beryl's close friend Satchi Shimotakahara made a special visit from Ontario. Sachi, who moved away from Antigonish five years ago, still has strong friendships in Antigonish and loyalties to St. James United Church.

Tuesday Meditation Group

How can you tell a meditator? You might be surprised. Most of us are very busy and active. We like to talk and to laugh. We don't have things figured out. What we have is an interest in peace and stillness. And that's what our meditation group provides: a chance to go into a period of silence. We believe it isn't up to us once we've gotten that far. That's in God's hands. Our job is showing up!

We welcome any who would like to try our once a week gathering. It's at 3:45 each Tuesday in the Alaya Ch'an building on Main Street, between Shoppers and the Post Office. We meet upstairs in the kitchen. It is interdenominational and not bound by any faith tradition.

Call Fran at 863-3546 for further information.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Reminders needed in the 1870's and Home Baptisms

At the Manse on the 9th day of January AD1880 the Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator (the Minister). Present the Moderator, Mrs. D. Chisholm, Samuel Williams, H.H. McCurdy and R. Dickson, Elders. The minutes of last meeting were read and sustained.

At a previous meeting of Session H.H. McCurdy and R. Dickson had been appointed to see Mr. Burnside and to converse with him together, asking him to read a sermon at Sabbath morning exercises during the absence of the Minister at Cape George, these brethren having neglected this matter were at this meeting reappointed to wait upon Mr. Burnside on the same subject.

The Moderator brought to the notice of the Session that it was the desire of Mrs. David Graham to have her two children baptized next Sabbath at 3 pm at the house of Mr. W. Randall, the request of Mrs. Graham was granted in as much she was unable through a long illness to leave the house. After two of the brethren had engaged in prayer the meeting was closed by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

Chas. H Harrington, Clerk

The Follow Up

At a meeting of the Session on the 27th day of February AD 1870, it is recorded that Mr. R. Dickson one of the Committee appointed to see Mr. Burnside respecting the reading of a sermon on Sabbath morning in the absence of the Minister, reported that he saw Mr. Burnside and he gave him to understand that he would take his turn in due course.

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