



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 6 Issue 4 • Winter 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is an old story told of a painting discovered in the back of an art gallery storeroom. Forgotten and neglected for years, the canvas was covered with a thick layer of dust and grime. At first glance, it did not appear to be anything important but as the restorers began to work on it they discovered the treasure before them. As they removed the dirt that the years had placed on the painting, they revealed a colourful and masterful depiction of the angel appearing to the shepherds to tell them of the birth of Jesus. People came from all around to view the beauty of the restored masterpiece and marvel at how the artist captured both the fear and excitement of the shepherds that night.

The Christmas story is so familiar to us that we do not pay much attention to the words. Even when we do listen, we hear it while remembering what has happened in our lives during the season and what other people have said about the story. Often that causes us to miss the beauty and power of the verses. For within the Christmas narrative is the promise that the world is changing through the birth of a baby in Bethlehem.

As people of faith we are invited to join with the shepherds in hearing the good news that the Saviour is among us. We are invited to join with the angels in praising God and giving thanks for what is happening in the world. We are asked to be the people who not merely hear the story and thank God for it but who understand that our lives change because of Jesus' birth so long ago.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas and may the New Year bring continued blessings.

Yours in Christ's Service
The Rev. Peter Smith

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:9-10 NIV



December 9th we welcomed to the church through the sacrament of holy baptism Alec Gordon Hamilton Graham son of Claire (Hamilton) and Glenn Graham.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monday, December 24, 2012 - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 PM** Christmas Eve Service at St. David's in Cape George
- 7:00 PM** Family Service at St. James
- 9:00 PM** Communion Service at St. James ending with the lighting of candles

Sunday, December 30, 2012

- 10:30 AM** The Christmas Celebration continues with carols & lessons for the season

Sunday School News



Our young people continue to be busy in Sunday school, participating in both Sunday worship and outreach ministry. We have been blessed to have Pamela Obonde, a Coady student from Kenya, join us during our Sunday school time. Pamela has shared with us some of the differences between our culture and hers, how a typical day would be spent in her community, and the comparisons between her Sunday school and ours.

We have learned a great deal from Pamela, most importantly that we are all God's children, and regardless of where we live or how we worship, we are called to love and care for one another. As an outreach ministry and with the help of the congregation, the Sunday school children were

able to raise \$305.00 to send home with Pamela, who promised to use this money to purchase blankets for the children of her community. We look forward to remaining in touch with her once she returns home to Kenya.

On Nov. 18th the Sunday school provided leadership for the morning worship service. Their contributions are always original and well-received and the congregation looks forward to these special services.

Dec. 2nd was our White Gift service. Everyone looks forward to the packing of the Christmas cheer bags for the food bank which takes place on White Gift Sunday, and the Sunday school youth continued with the spirit of sharing by hosting coffee and fellowship time after the regular service.

On Dec. 9th we welcomed St. Paul's Sunday school. Together we enjoyed decorating gingerbread people, making a special craft as well as plenty of fellowship.

Teachers and children of the St. James United Church Sunday school would like to wish the congregation a wonderful and blessed Christmas. May the New Year bring comfort, peace and happiness.

St. James Sunday School

ST. JAMES HOLY BAPTISM

November 4, 2012 • Kylah Josephine Gillis daughter of Chris and Kelly (Gartley) Gillis. Godparents Andy and Michelle Gillis.

December 9 • Alec Gordon Hamilton Graham son of Claire (Hamilton) and Glenn Graham. Godparents Alistair Hamilton and Amy Graham.

December 16 • Callie Mae Marjorie MacDonald, child of Alicia (Cross) and Derek MacDonald.



The Advent candle for Peace was lit by David, Lori and Emma Young.



Antigonish Gift Book

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH The Social Justice Committee

The Antigonish Gift Book continues to be a gift that really does make a difference in our community. The Social Justice Committee has been organizing this project for the past three years. What the Gift Book program does is to allow people to make a donation in the name of someone on their Christmas list to a local non-profit organization. There are ten organizations to choose from, and those making a donation should be able to match the interests of the person on their list to one of these groups.

Last year after the Christmas season was over, the committee asked representatives of the selected groups, all of which were in some way attempting to alleviate the effects of poverty in our area, if there had been any noticeable difference as a result of the Gift Book program, and we were assured that yes, a significant difference had been apparent. This is encouraging and is all the more reason to continue to promote the idea.

Most of us have someone who really doesn't need or want to have any more material things given to them at Christmas. For these people, a donation to a worthy charity is really in the Christmas spirit of bringing more love into the world.

The Gift Books are available in the church entry, in the church office, as well as at the People's Place (library) on Main Street. More information can be found at:

www.stjamesuc.com/sojust.htm

Fran Wittgens



Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up



On Saturday 27 October members of our congregation participated in our first Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up. Our area is Exit 32 at the interchange of Highways 104 and 7. The only requirement for our participation is that we perform a clean up twice yearly - fall and spring.

We had ten cheerful, stalwart souls participate in our inaugural effort. We enjoyed good fellowship while collecting nine bags of garbage and one bag of recyclables. This wasn't a huge "haul", but the interchange only opened about a month prior.

"Finds" included everything from a large sheet of styrofoam to lobster claws and some type of electronic device. We anticipate that, unfortunately, there will be a lot more garbage during our spring clean up.

One pleasant aspect of the work was the number of friendly folks, who, upon either seeing us in our colourful safety vests, or the signs advertising a clean up crew at work, honked their support. Our official Adopt-A-Highway signs crediting St James United Church for their assistance will be placed at the interchange some time in the spring.

A huge thanks to all those who donated a few hours of their time, to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure who provided all the required materials, and to Bennett's Market who provided parking and some delicious snacks after we'd finished. We've challenged other churches in Antigonish to follow in our footsteps and adopt a highway section themselves. There has been some interest and hopefully they'll pick up the gauntlet!

Mich`ele Ashby

St. James United:

COMMUNITY, CHURCH & HOME

The moment that I entered St. James, I was certain that I had found a second home in Nova Scotia. Travelling from Vancouver had been a tedious succession of stops and starts that marked a growing sense of distance from my family and friends. The little of Nova Scotia that I had seen had been many years before I resolved to study here, and I was apprehensive of what awaited me on the other side of Canada.

On my first Sunday here, I had the good fortune of sitting in front of a company of friends who immediately invited me to tea and biscuits in the parlour. I was enveloped by such a sense of community that I found myself standing at the front door of our historic church the very next Sunday greeting other members of the congregation and introducing myself. The overwhelming feeling of belonging instantly put my doubts to rest and eased the loneliness that had taken root en route from British Columbia. My plans to explore each church in the town were interrupted, as another plan seemed already to have been laid for me.

The same member of St. James who had placed me at our front door encouraged me to lend my voice to the choir. Our musical director turned a deaf ear to my modest complaints and before too long I was surrounded by a close-knit fellowship of inspired voices. I had never before been a member of a church choir, and yet it is something that I will invest in wherever I go. The pressing time commitments of engineering studies have often chased me to church and back again, but the time that I have at St. James has become a haven from the concerns of my academic life.

In each week's bulletin appears a new announcement about an opportunity to try a new form of worship, give to someone in need, or contribute to a community meal or activity. St. James is a radical departure from the churches I am familiar with. Members of the congregation are not only encouraged to join prayer groups and devotionals, but to serve the community and gain awareness of global issues. Each initiative that I engage in connects me with people whom I serve and am served by: the elegant agape between



On Saturday Dec. 8th St. James was open to the general public from 1:00 to 2:00 for a public carol sing. St. James' Brass Quintet and members of the senior choir accompanied by Sheila Davison provided the musical leadership as busy shoppers stopped by to relax and reflect on the less commercial side of Christmas. Even Santa popped in to enjoy the music, proof positive that this is an event that should be repeated annually.

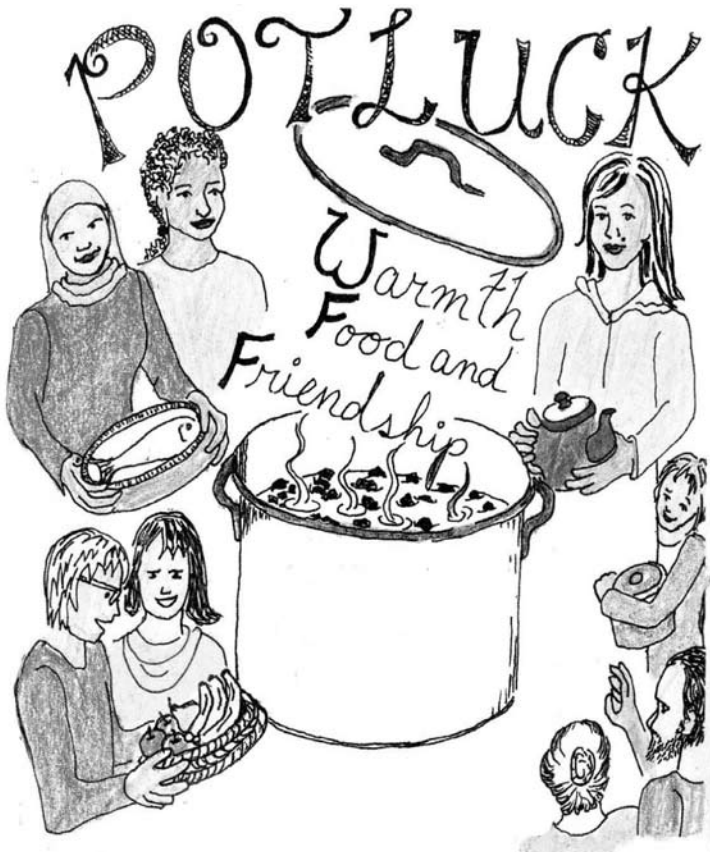
Christian neighbours.

In the early New Year, a repeated announcement caught and held my attention: the start of confirmation classes. Although I had already set my heart on a life with God, I jumped at the chance to grow in daily devotion and knowledge of the United Church. My grandmother had passed away that spring, and her departure compounded the frustration that I could not be home to be with my family. On my Confirmation Sunday, St. James once again shocked me with its audacious love. In a reception following the service, I was hugged, prayed for, pinched, and congratulated by the core of women who are the beating heart of our church. In a community that is almost seven thousand kilometers away from my family I found myself in the midst of grandmothers who answered a prayer I hadn't given voice to.

It is with heavy heart that I move to Halifax to continue my studies next year. I will never fully replace all that St. James is, although I know with confidence that a home is waiting here for my next return to Antigonish.

Bonnie Moore

Antigonish International



This fall, a very energetic group within the church sought the opportunity to get to know our diverse international community by inviting them to a potluck meal to be held in the hall of St. James United Church. The first one was held on the last Sunday of October and was judged by all in attendance to be a great success, with close to 120 people attending.

Although many of them were students, the attendees also included workers in the area as well as several residents who settled in this region years ago. As people mixed, there were smiles and a general feeling that this type of event should be held more often. Some suggested that we should have one culture be the featured group for each potluck. A real interest in learning about each other was expressed.

The second potluck was held on Sunday, November 25th. The Philippino community

added much colour to this evening, with music, a slideshow, and remarks about their culture. Emily Leoncio spearheaded this effort. If anything, the crowd was even larger this time, even attracting the notice of a photographer from The Casket.

We are very lucky to have the support of Kerry Urquhart, the Newcomer Navigator for this area. Her group has supplied beverages, labels, name tags, and the children's art supplies for each of the dinners. They have also set up a Facebook page and printed promotional material, helping to form our growing network of contacts. In fact, you can follow us on Facebook at Antigonish International Potluck.

These potluck meals are very much a family-friendly event. Brenda Berthaume, the St.F.X. International Student Adviser, has been invaluable with her insights on what her students want and need from the community. As well, Sheila Sears from GASHA is both an enthusiastic volunteer in many community projects in addition to representing the regional Health Authority.

The planning group is open to other interested individuals. Besides those already mentioned, Nellie Fiaz, Sarita Ghore, Jed and Kandace Perkins and Fran Wittgens also work with this group, and Nancy Turniawan designed our poster.

In order to make these potlucks manageable, we rely on volunteers for such things as setting up and dismantling the tables and chairs, light kitchen duty, assistance in serving, etc. If you are interested in helping out at one of these events, our next potluck is scheduled for the last Sunday of January. If you are able to lend a helping hand, please e-mail Fran at hfwittgens@eastlink.ca

Try to let us know if you are able to help ahead of time so we don't wonder where our support is coming from!

St. James Men's Choir

The Men's Choir continues a tradition which was started long before I arrived at St. James back in the 1980's. At the time, Gerry Cunningham was the director. I can't imagine anyone making me feel more welcome to be a part of the group than Gerry. He was always so friendly, upbeat, unassuming, and full of music. He was a real gentleman, and we all loved him.

At that time, I was probably the youngest member of the choir, and I was struck by how immediately they made me feel not only welcome, but also a part of the group. I guess there has always been a great sense of fellowship. Another thing that was readily evident was that there was going to be a great deal of laughter when it came to "hanging out" with these guys.

I remember one Sunday morning when there had been many extras in the order of service and already was running fairly long. The minister (Ralph Webber) had finally come to the point where he was about to start his sermon and was apologizing for the length of time things had taken and wondered aloud if he should even start, when a deep loud, resonating "No!" came from a smiling Percy Archibald who was sitting across from me in the bass section. At this point the choir and the congregation broke up, and Ralph said something like, "Well, I guess you've answered that question, Percy!" and we moved to the final hymn.

Ernie Gourley loved a funny story. I remember seeing him making his way down the spiral stairs from the choir loft, and upon seeing me he'd say, "Peter, were we in harmony or agony this morning?" A number of these "great guys" who were in the choir at the time have since passed away..... Gerry, Percy, Ernie, as well as Earnest MacNaughton, Russel Alcorn, Fred Pushie, Tik Liem, Ray Reeves, and more recently, Jay Crawford. However, the spirit of those great guys lives on. We have a very talented group of men.

1st Tenors: Bob Murray, Scott Williams, Allistair Hamilton • **2nd Tenors:** George Baxter, Charles Lowe, Jack Lilly, Paul van de Weil • **Baritones:** Fred Davison, John Graham-Pole, Bill Steven •

Basses: Stan Chapman, Gord Morrison, Gavin Fraser • **Organist:** Sheila Davison

To borrow a line from the PGA, "These guys are good!" It's obvious that there is a great sense of commitment in the Men's Choir. We do work pretty hard during rehearsals, sometimes finding the music we've selected to be challenging to our abilities. However, we manage to intersperse our music with "humourical" interludes.

I would be remiss if I did not say how important our one female choir-member is to us. Sheila, without your devotion, incredible musical talent, hard work, and organizational ability, (oops I almost forgot, gastronomical supplications) I can't see how this group could ever function. Thank you!

The St James Mens Choir meets Thursdays from 7:30- 8:30 (times approximate!!) throughout our "season" which runs from September through May. New members are always welcome!!

I found a photo of a set of rules for choir written (in a child's hand) on a poster board. I thought it was appropriate for our group: 1. Don't sing bad words. 2. Be quiet when (the director) is talking. 3. Sing loud, but not louder than pretty. 4. No smoking. 5. Don't make fun of others. 6. Don't sing the wrong notes. 7. Keep clothes on.

Peter Rawding (Dictator....oops Director)



Sheila leads the Bell Choir on Nov. 25th while the Men's Choir enjoys the ringing in of the season.



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Hot Meal Program

The St. James United hot meal program has been running successfully for eight years. From a modest beginning, the weekly attendees have swelled from five people to approximately fifty.

We now have six teams of workers, consisting of many dedicated volunteers. However, due to illness, winter vacations and unforeseen circumstances some of the teams are presently in need of new members to shore up their numbers.

If anyone can volunteer to be a part of a team, the organizers of the weekly hot meal program would be most gratified. If you can help in any way, or if you would like further information about this program, please telephone Betty Webber at 863-1301 or speak to any member of the present teams.

Betty Webber

Service Learning at St. James



This fall we were pleased to have students helping our Tuesday Hot Meal Program through the StFX Service Learning Program. Each week Kristine, Aaron, and Marissa assisted the volunteer teams through serving the meal and helping with the clean up. Their presence and enthusiasm added to the warmth and welcome of our program. We are grateful for their efforts in making our program stronger.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is one that goes about quietly distributing beautiful hand-knitted shawls to those in the community who may be going through a difficult time in their lives. The reason for not naming the recipients is that sometimes a person does not want people to know they are ill, under stress, or feeling sad, and confidentiality is always carefully guarded.

But sometimes the giving of a shawl can be a very happy occasion, such as when we publicly presented

Bonnie Fraser with a shawl at the time when she was ordained. Another happy occasion took place on November 4 which we would like now to share with you.

On that day we invited the cast, director and crew of the Park Bench Players to the parlour for tea and cookies and Rev. Peter joined us. We felt we wanted to honour this group in some way in order to express appreciation for their gift of giving so much of themselves in the presentation of their play "With A Little Help From Our Friends" and to tell them how proud Antigonish is of the group for the honour of being invited to Vancouver to receive a special award. Our gift to them was in giving each of the ladies a shawl and to the men lap robes. We have recently discovered Pocket Prayer Shawls and each member of the crew received one of these.

We felt so honoured and privileged when they had something for us and that was in the second reading of their new play. We know it will be every bit as successful as their first one. Over tea and cookies we enjoyed hearing about their adventures in Vancouver and how much they appreciated the support they had received. The smiles and laughter in the room told us that both groups had made new friends. It was one of those times when we felt truly blessed to be part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Mavis Murray

Barrier-Free Access: What Does It Really Mean?

Anne Camozzi



Photo courtesy of the Casket by Richard MacKenzie of the Antigonish GiftBook group Gina, Anne, Fran, Michelle

I'm grateful for the extremely positive response of our community in embracing the need for better accessibility to our church through their support of the capital campaign. I've been urged to share my thoughts as we move forward with these exciting renovations. My years at St. James United have allowed me to develop deep friendships and I am thankful for the love and support that I've received. In the coming years, many members of our congregation could be faced with some of the challenges that I'm presently coping with, and it is with this in mind that I'm writing this piece.

For seven years, I was unable to attend church events and weekly services because it was impossible to get into the building. Although entry still poses considerable challenges, the untiring support of Gord Morrison has made it possible. However, events in the hall hold even more challenges. The slope of our current ramp is terrifying for anyone in a wheelchair and almost impossible for those with a walker, and as everyone knows, access to the church washrooms is impossible if you can't use the ramp or stairs. In fact, in the past I've left the building and gone across the street to use the washrooms at the Moonlight Cafe: not an easy solution, and impossible in winter.

So, here's a wish list for the upcoming renovations. I'd love both the church sanctuary and the hall to be truly barrier free. Simply getting inside the doorway is not enough. Barrier-free means that a person leaving a vehicle on Main St. can move to the main entrance/ramp from a dedicated loading and unloading zone close-by. If this is not possible, then a blue handicapped-accessible spot should be as close as possible to the door. At present, the nearest blue zone is on Church St. and as I understand it, the new ramped entrance will be at the front. I've requested a blue zone for the front of the church in the past and the request was denied. These requests can take time. It would be helpful if this were a formal request with the support of CIBC and the Men's Health Centre as there is no blue zone on Main St. between our church and the Prissy Pig. Together we would present a stronger voice.

From the parking space, there must be level access to and onto the ramp. All too often a slope or uneven surface between the vehicle and the ramp creates an unintended barrier. Additionally, ramps are often too long and difficult to use. Not all disabilities are created equal and what might be easy in a power wheelchair might be impossible in a manual chair or with a walker or crutches. Wouldn't it be nice if there were a way into the building without a ramp? If this were possible, it would be ideal.

Once inside, elevation changes are dangerous, especially for those with changes in their vision and depth perception. Poor lighting would be another barrier for these individuals. But ramp access, elevation changes and poor lighting are only some barriers that make access difficult. While there are many specifications for the space needed inside a wheelchair bathroom, access means that the pathway to the bathroom does not pose barriers, as well as the space inside. I've been in plenty of bathrooms that have a wheelchair stall but users can't get a wheelchair in the door (often due to right-angle corners). In addition, buttons for automatic doors should not be situated so that a person or their mobility device is hit by the opening

door. While these examples seem obvious, they are good examples of well-intentioned “mistakes” that actually create more barriers and hazards for the physically challenged. It’s all the more heart-breaking when a lot of money has been spent and things still aren’t right.

It’s clear that the science of barrier-free design is complex. Fortunately, there are barrier-free consultants who have the expertise to identify problem areas before it’s too costly to correct the mistake. I think the investment in this type of consultation would be a good way to ensure that the final result of our renovations guarantees that St. James United Church is truly accessible.

Barrier-free design anticipates the future needs of a population that might not yet realize how difficult everyday mobility can be under certain conditions. I’m overjoyed that I’ll soon be able to resume attending concerts, dinners and other gatherings that our church is famous for. Although I don’t wish for anyone to have to cope with the transportation and mobility issues that I face on a daily basis, I would like to know that for those who face these challenges, St. James will continue to be a welcoming place and that any newcomers with disabilities will comfortably find a “home” in our community. Thanks to all for listening and caring.

Capital Campaign

Together

we can

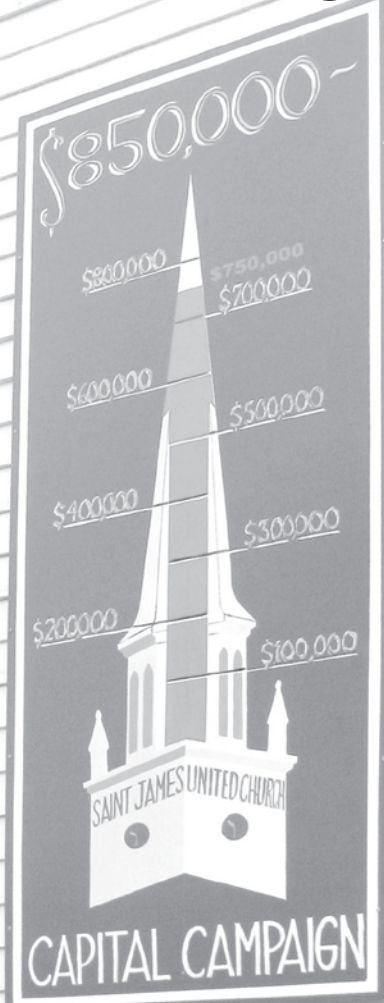
succeed.

\$100,000

to go

to reach

our goal.



*Kandace & Jed Perkins at
Sherbrooke Village's Christmas*

Reflection by Jed Perkins

During the holidays it is hard not to let some of the nostalgia of the season rub off on you. You feel more in touch with your family, your heritage, and your past. As an aspiring wood worker I am constantly observing the craftsmanship of others, particularly those items from our past that speak strongly to me. In an age before power tools, working wood required infinite skill and patience. Sitting in the sanctuary at Saint James, I am reminded of the past. I am reminded of all of the generations of people who came, and sat in those pews. I am reminded of a time when people crafted things, a time when you put a piece of your soul into the item that you were making. No fiberboard or bolted together monstrosities. Growing up in New England pews was generally a spartan affair, perhaps a reflection of some of the puritan background. Strong sturdy planks nailed together, utilitarian to match the interior. Sitting in Saint James, I see the care of some loving craftsmen who formed strips of wood, cooperating them into undulating, curvaceous, and yet strong, sturdy, and lasting seating. It is easy to recognize the beauty in the stained glass, and the mural that adorns the church, but it is equally as important and as moving to see the beauty in such everyday objects. These items speak to who we were, what we are, and what we do with them will speak to what we will become.

Joy to the World

On Friday Nov. 23rd Sherbrooke Village held their traditional tree-lighting ceremony, a seasonal event that had been missing from their holiday calendar for the past three years, and the choir of St. James United was invited to lead the carol-singing that took place following the candlelight parade through the town.

The weather forecast had predicted dubious conditions but the rain and snow held off until much later in the evening. Instead, participants and visitors were greeted with starry skies, no wind to speak of, and a fairy-tale recreation of what village life must have been like centuries ago, along with more modern twinkling lights and festive decorations strung from every tree.

The old village itself, with its wide streets and spacious public gathering places, manages to accommodate a huge crowd on this very special evening, with visitors coming from as far away as Halifax and the South Shore welcoming the festive season with music and joy. It was an honour for the St. James choir and congregation to be asked to attend this event.



Hope Graham and Marilyn Swim at Sherbrooke Village on Friday, December 23rd.



Holly Tea & Sale

Another successful Holly Tea and Sale has come and gone. The crowd was large and the smiles even larger as the people enjoyed a

delectable selection of baked goods, bargains on the new-to-you table, the mystery of who would be the final bidders at the Silent Auction, and, of course, our delicious luncheon. Children of all ages had great fun decorating cookies and making a craft.

Did you know that the first sale took place in 1973 and was then known as the Jingle Bell Tea and Sale. The profit at that event was \$764.00, a far cry from the \$4500.00 we realized at this year's sale. We are able to seat 70 people at one time at the tea tables and it only takes a few minutes to have every seat occupied. We hear over and over again comments like, "I look forward to this every year," and "I wouldn't miss it. You people make the best sandwiches," or "Where else can you get bargains like this?"

Does the tea and sale require a lot of preparation? You better believe it! Over 70 people are needed in order to have everything ready for the big event, and that's not counting all the work that goes on in people's homes as mittens are knitted and cookies are baked. All the UCW active members are pressed into service, as well as many people in the congregation who give their time. Without the volunteers, our much-anticipated event would never happen. We hope to see you next year, same time, same place.



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From The Archives

The Session Clamps Down on Intoxication and Late Stipends

In the Manse at Antigonish Sept. 14, 1877 the Session met and was constituted. Present Messrs James Burnside, Duncan Chisholm, Charles Harrington and John MacMillan, Elders.

The minutes of last meeting were read and sanctioned. Mr. Charles Harrington was appointed to represent the Session of our church courts the ensuing year. The Session considered the case of Mr. Charles Cunningham who was seen to be intoxicated and agreed to cite him to answer to the charge at the next meeting of Session. It was stated by a member of Session that A.M. Cunningham was intoxicated and the Session agreed to cite him likewise to appear at their next meeting. Mr. Duncan Chisholm was appointed by the Session to see Mr. Nathan Pushie and talk with him on the matter of the stipends unpaid and urge him to pay up the balance due from him before the next meeting of Session. Closed with prayer.

(John MacMillan Clerk)

The Result

In the Manse at Antigonish October 12th, 1877 the Session met and was constituted. Present, the Moderator (Minister), Duncan Chisholm, Charles Harrington and John McMillan, Elders.

A.M. Cunningham appeared in compliance with the citation. He acknowledged having drunk too much liquor, expressed sorrow for it and promised to be more cautious in the future. He was admonished by the Moderator and allowed to withdraw. Charles Cunningham did not appear. The Session was not sure that he got the citation, accordingly the consideration of his case at the present was postponed. It was reported by Duncan Chisholm that Nathan Pushie had fully settled up his stipends. (John MacMillan, Clerk)

In reviewing subsequent minutes Charles Cunningham still had not appeared. *The Dec. 14th 1877 minutes record:* "The clerk was instructed to cite Charles Cunningham two or three days previous to the next meeting of Session to answer to the charge of intoxication made against him some time ago."

Minutes of January 18th 1878 record: "The Clerk reported that Charles Cunningham was cited to appear before the Session to answer to the charge of intoxication made against him The case postponed until the next meeting of Session"

There is no further mention of Charles Cunningham in subsequent minutes. Did he escape the wrath of the Session? We'll never know.

GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?



Florence and Dorothy meet up with Doreen after church, still remembering the great time they had at the annual Guess Who's Coming for Dinner in October.



A gracious heart felt thank you was extended to the congregation from Pamela of Kenya.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

What Christmas Should be About



How does the saying go? “It is better to give than to receive.” What a wonderful lesson not only for us to teach our children but for us as adults to embrace. Let’s give the gift of time, friendship, conversation, and love. These are gifts that will stay with us forever and they don’t come with a price tag.

Two years ago, St. James United Church thought about all those in our community who spent Christmas alone. Students who have no family close by or empty nesters whose children have moved away, there are many reasons why someone may be alone. Perhaps for financial reasons a traditional turkey dinner just isn’t possible. The idea of a community Christmas dinner was born, everyone together enjoying a beautiful dinner while making memories that will last a lifetime.

The idea was discussed, but would there be enough time to pull it off? Where there’s a will, there’s a way. So, in 2010 the first community Christmas dinner was held with approximately sixty people in attendance and from the outset was judged to be a great success. Following that first dinner, organizers and volunteers knew they were going to continue this event.

The following year, 2011, preparations began early. A committee of volunteers was formed and work began. With more time to publicize the event we were hopeful for another great turnout. We

never imagined that we would be turning away food and volunteers because people were so willing to give. That year we served about one hundred individuals, and what a wonderful feeling. There were lots of laughs and many stories shared that day.

This year St. James is planning to serve Christmas dinner at 2:00 pm on December 25th. This event will take place in the hall of St. James United Church, located at the corner of Main Street and Church Street. Community help is needed again and we are looking for donations of food, money or time. We welcome you to come and be part of this event, either by setting up, serving, enjoying the meal or helping with clean up. If you know of someone who might enjoy some fellowship and good food on Christmas day and who should be invited, we also welcome that information. If you want to help in any way, please call Carolyn Webber at 863-0492, Betty Webber at 863-1301 or Karen Clifton at 867-1763. You can also check the Community Christmas Dinner group on Facebook.

*With a warm heart,
Karen Clifton*



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