

CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 8 Issue 2 • Summer 2014



*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:
With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like a day.*

2 Peter 3:8 NIV

Dear Friends in Christ,

When someone asks me how long I have been at St. James, I have to stop and think. In some ways it feels like just yesterday since I am still excited about the ministry and people and am still discovering new things in Antigonish. Yet when I stop to consider all that has happened in the church and town since I first stepped into the pulpit I realize that Meredith and I have been here for awhile. Honestly though, when I do the math I find it hard to believe that we have lived here for almost seven years.

However, when anyone asks how it feels to be back after my sabbatical I don't pause at all- it feels like coming home. I'll admit that when I left in January I was unsure how it would be to return in April after an absence of three months. Yet the warm reception and welcome when I came back and the feeling of peace I had when I entered the building after being away simply confirmed to me that I am where I should be. Meredith and I prayerfully considered before we moved to Antigonish and honestly have never looked back.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had during this winter to step aside and take some courses, retreat for prayer and quiet, and to carefully consider parts of our ministry together. I also feel blessed to be able to return to Antigonish and continue on the path I believe God has opened for us as a community of faith to live, to learn, and to grow as followers of Jesus.

May God continue to bless us in our life together.

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

ST. JAMES HOLY BAPTISM

*Benjamin Lawrence Bernard
LeFort, child of Megan Elizabeth
and Eric Bradley LeFort, was
baptized with his family in
attendance.*



It's always a joy

when the children present the
musical offering.



Sunday School & Youth Group News

The Sunday School and Youth Group have had a busy and enjoyable spring.

The Youth Group was excited to have St.F.X. scientists Doug Hunter, Randy Lauff, and Peter Poole share their thoughts on science and faith. They also enjoyed a movie night with The Desolation of Smaug, and did a bit more planning for the trip to Africa we hope to take in 2016! They also took part in several services and helped out at the Stump Frolic as well! Linda has asked that she be able to volunteer to remain on as Youth Group Coordinator for the next two years. It is hoped that this will be approved by the new CEC.

The Elementary Sunday School students have been wowing crowds all over town. They have been a wonderful reminder of God's love and joy, taking part in the Palm Sunday walkthrough, several services, and bringing such joy to the residents of the R.K. MacDonald Home. The closing and barbeque was held on June 15th.

We hope everyone has a fun and safe summer!

*Submitted by
St. James Sunday School and Youth Group*



On June 15th Garret Van de Wiel spoke about the many wonderful experiences the participants enjoyed at Youth Forum this spring.

He urged others to think about going next year. "It will definitely be memorable," he said.



Kaylyn
MacKenzie
Bachelor of
Design, Fashion
& Technology
May 29, 2014

Today's hymn "Circle of God" sure touched a cord as I wind down from our trip to Vancouver to see the fashion show produced by our daughter's graduating class, our journey to Matamata, New Zealand to visit our son Jay, his wife Cheryl and William(7), Maria(5), Ula(3) & Andrew(16 months) and then back to Vancouver for Kaylyn's graduation from Kwantlen Polytechnic University with the degree Bachelor of Design, Fashion and Technology. It was delightful to attend Northwood UCC for the Easter Sunday service with Kaylyn, Candace and her husband, Jason. The church was packed with many intergenerational and multicultural families. The children were held in high esteem throughout the service and there were fresh daffodils for everyone. A cross was decorated with these fresh flowers during the service. I also had the pleasure of celebrating Mother's Day for the first time in 10 years with Jay in Matamata. His family attends Matamata Methodist Church. It is primarily a congregation of senior citizens with only a few young families and children. The church is struggling due to the financial issues and demands created for building upgrades after the major earthquakes in New Zealand. The church is very welcoming and its members are so supportive of each other. It reminded me very much of St. James. There were wonderful dedications and outreaching to women, mothers, grandmothers and even to those who could not attend the service, encouraging folks to deliver fancy handkerchiefs (made by the Sunday School children) stuffed with chocolates and handmade butterfly brooches to anyone missing, in nursing homes or the hospital.

*Have a lovely summer everyone!
Joanne & Lawrence MacKenzie*

Rites of Spring

St. James United Church holds its annual Stump Frolic, to the delight of the entire town.



The weather cooperated which helped to make the day an even more festive event.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

As we have recently completed the major renovations at St. James, the major renovations undertaken by the congregation in 1886 may be of interest to us now as they too looked at various options for expansion. At a meeting of the congregation held on Feb. 8th 1886 a committee was appointed to consult with an architect to get his opinion to such building and pew accommodations (as outlined in the actual minutes below) and also get a plan and specifications of such building and probable cost of the same. The meeting was adjourned to meet on March 1st.

An adjourned meeting was held in the Church on March 1st, 1886. John MacMillan Esq. in the chair –A. M. Innes, Secretary. The committee appointed to consult with an architect reported that they did not get a plan but in the meantime got an estimate of the cost of adding an outside building to the church, or cutting of the Church and extending it so as to give a number of new pews and adding 22 feet so as to have a room sufficient for the purpose of the Sabbath School, Prayer Meetings, Lectures etc. – the first to cost \$900. And the latter \$1200. Moved by A. M. Cunningham and seconded that we erect a building for Sabbath School and other purposes, a building separate from the Church. Moved an amendment by A. Kirk seconded by I. W. White that the Church be extended 32 feet to suit all purposes required. The motion and amendment were both withdrawn. It was then moved by A. M. Cunningham and seconded by H.H. McCurdy that the Church be extended 12 feet so as to give 16 new pews and that a new building be erected to the south end of the Church suitable for the purposes of the Sabbath School, Prayer Meetings etc. which was passed unanimously. Notice to be given from the Pulpit two Sabbaths as our rules require. Motion seconded and passed that this meeting be adjourned to meet again on the 17th day of March instant at 2 o'clock p.m.

Meeting adjourned from March 1st met on March 17th in the Church. John MacMillan was in the Chair. - A.M. Innes, Secretary. Moved by J.D. Copeland and seconded by A.M. Cunningham resolved the Church

be cut in the centre and extended twelve feet and that we build an outside building to the south end of the Church for Sabbath School, Prayer Meetings etc. according to plans and specifications submitted to Meeting and costs of all not to exceed \$1600 or 1700.

Carried by a vote of 15 for 3 against.

The meeting continued with motions covering the opening up of subscriptions and notes to cover the cost of the project and the purchase of the additional pews. One third to be paid by September 1st 1886 and the balance in one or two years.

The Men's Chorus: always original, always appreciated



The Annual Lobster Supper: Many hands make light work and happy customers





Summer Migration

Attendance at St. James United appears to diminish as June comes to an end but it's not merely because people take the summer off. A short drive along highway 337, known by many as the Mini-Trail, is all that's necessary to locate a sizeable number of the St. James congregation happily worshipping a bit closer to home at St. David's United Church in Cape George.

The history of St. David's is a rich and colourful one. Originally settled by David Ballantyne, a native of Strathaven, Scotland who came to Nova Scotia with the 82nd Highland Regiment in 1783, Cape George was not his first stop in the New World. However, local history has it that after the bears killed his only cow and dug up his seed potatoes in Merigomish, he left Pictou County in disgust and trudged along the shoreline until he arrived at what is now known as Ballantyne's Cove, where he was given a land grant of 2000 acres by the King of Scotland. He married in 1788 and fathered nine children - seven sons and

two daughters - and many of his descendants are still residents of the region.

The original settlers of Cape George and Ballantyne's Cove were Presbyterian and for the first few years they met for worship in each other's homes, but as the congregation grew a barn belonging to David Ballantyne became their primary meeting place. St. David's Church was built in 1829 and became a part of the Antigonish pastorate in 1833, although it didn't become a part of the United Church until 1925. An interesting sidebar to its early history mentions that although the language of the new church was officially English, whenever the old barn had to be used in order to accommodate larger congregations and gatherings, the service was always conducted in Gaelic.

St. David's United Church is still a vital force within the Cape George/Ballantyne's Cove community, and, as in years gone by, the local population takes great pride in cleaning and preparing the building and surrounding cemetery for summer services. In fact, the congregation and trustees of St. David's invites anyone who might be passing by on a Sunday morning to drop in for its 9:00 a.m. worship. The first service of the 2014 season will be on June 22nd.

Remembering Pat Skinner

On June 13, 2014, a ceremony was held at the People's Place Library to remember and celebrate the life and activities of Pat Skinner and to dedicate a room to her memory. Because of Pat's involvement at St. James the family asked Rev. Peter to open the ceremony with prayer and invited a representative of the Social Justice Committee to speak. Anne Camozzi spoke on behalf of the committee:

"I am honoured today to represent the community of St James United Church, where Pat was an active member for so many years. Pat delighted in pursuing social justice within the church, always challenging us and always doing so with her gifts of laughter, joy of life, but also her bold directness, her willingness to take on challenges where others wouldn't.

Whether it was arranging flowers for our annual earth day celebration or challenging us to social issues, Pat always did so with grace and love. In reflecting on what to say today, I thought about the last time Pat had been at my home just before she died. She told me stories of the early days in Antigonish. Stories that we wept over. Days when a black person had to buy a piece of clothing if they tried it on because they would have contaminated it by touching it. She told me of looking for a job and having a manager tell her that he would hire her but all of his staff would quit. Not so long ago.

Pat would challenge us and say, the work is not done! She would call upon each and everyone of us to continue her work..there is always more to do she said.. And if we answered her call that we did not have time, or we did not care enough or could not do it she might look us each in the eye and with a broad twinkle and smile say, "you lie girl!" Let us hope her bold vision and deep heart continues in all of us that she has touched. Thank you for the chance to pay tribute to a Spirit who I am sure is here with us right now."

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

What is it?

An evening of fun, food and fellowship – getting to know your “pew neighbours”!

Who?

Hosts (as many as possible) ~ Guests (all comers – singles, couples and kids)

Where?

At host's homes (handicap accessibility will be available)

When?

Sunday evening, 26 October

How?

Look for upcoming details in the fall ...

Cost?

A donation of \$5.00 p/p is appreciated and will go to offset host's expenses. All surplus money collected will go to St James' Benevolent Fund.



The 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' committee is already hard at work planning the next event. Stay tuned: details will follow in the autumn edition of Connections.

The congregation of St. James United Church would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to Linda Penner for her service as Christian Faith and Development Coordinator.

Linda has given tirelessly to developing the Sunday School and Youth Group over the past year. Her dedication and leadership have been invaluable and she will be sorely missed. Again, we thank Linda and wish her the best in her future endeavours.

*Submitted by Lori Young,
Christian Faith and Development Committee*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Catriona and Alison (née Brand), daughters of Con and Allan Brand. Both were former members of St. James United.

Catriona, who has a B.Sc in Food Service Management from St F.X. and is a Registered Dietician, lives in Cornwall PEI with her husband, Peter and has 3 grown up boys.

She is Director of the Food Services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Hillsborough Hospital in Charlottetown, PEI

Alison, who has an M.D. from Dalhousie University and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada, lives in Sydney, Australia with her husband, Andrew and 2 children, a boy and a girl.

She specialises in the treatment of Gynaecological cancer and is Head of the Department of Gynaecological Oncology at Westmeads Hospital, Senior Lecturer at University of Sydney and Chairperson of the Australia/ New Zealand Gynaecological Cancer Research Group.



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