# CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 9 Issue 2 • Summer 2015



(Jesus said) I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one-as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me

- John 17:21

# Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1925, three churches did the unthinkable by joining together and becoming the United Church of Canada. The move was unprecedented because before then there were no churches that crossed denominational lines. Certainly Presbyterians sometimes joined together with Presbyterians, Methodists with Methodists, and Congregationalists with Congregationalists but the decision for the three different churches to come together to form one church was a uniquely Canadian move. When the United Church was formed there was a great deal of hope and enthusiasm, a smattering of controversy and dissension, and a fair bit of skepticism.

We now have a bit of history behind us as we pass our ninetieth anniversary. The United Church did not merely stay together but thrived as the founding congregations learned from one another and strove to be a united and uniting church. We faced the challenges that stood before us, struggled with the difficult questions facing us, and sought to remain faithful in our life together.

In some ways. I think we inherited the best qualities from the founding churches- the Presbyterians gave us a strong organizational structure which gave a voice to everyone, the Methodists gave us a passion for outreach and living the gospel in the world, and the Congregationalists gave us independence for congregations to choose their own forms of worship, study, and service. Those qualities have enabled us to move with the urging of the Holy Spirit into the new

directions God has called us.

This summer the General Council is considering some major changes to the United Church. They are looking at a new structure for us to live and work within which will help us respond in faith to what God is calling us to do and be as a church. We know very well at St. James that times of change can be anxious and unsettled but we also know that they can be the start of a brighter future.

May God continue to bless our life together.

Your in Christ's Service, The Rev. Peter A Smith.

# Services

Cape George (just past Lakevale), highway 337 9:00 AM

St. James, 197 Main Street • 10:30 AM

July 12 St. James Highland Games Closing Service

10:30 AM St. James will be hosting the service that officially closes the 2015 Antigonish Highland Games



# ST. JAMES HOLY BAPTISM

On May 17th, 2015 St. James United welcomed to the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Borden, Caleb James Thuot: Father: Joseph Marcel Thuot, Mother: Brenda Lee Ann Borden.



The United Church Women of St. James United held their closing dinner earlier this month. Keynote speakers were Norma Carey and Winniefred Kwak representing Grandmothers for Grandmothers, a division of The Stephen Lewis Foundation. More info can be found by searching info@stephenlewisfoundation.org or by contacting Winnie Kwak at e-mail winniekwak@yahoo.com



# Earth Day

The Children's
Chorus delighted the
congregation for the
April 26th Earth Day
Service. Everyone was
presented with a new tree
to plant, in the hope that
perhaps people will think
of restoring some of the
beauty that has been lost.





# Introducing the Spiritual Enrichment Fund

The Christian Faith and Development Committee wish to make the congregation aware that because of a recent donation to the church there is now a fund available to help individuals and families with the costs to attend spiritual events.

### What is this fund?

The Spiritual Enrichment Fund provides financial support to individuals and/or families who wish to attend church-sponsored events. The general aim of this fund is to stimulate more involvement and interest in enriching our faith by providing access to experiences and resources outside our church and congregation.

### Who can apply?

Grants from this fund are intended for those who attend St. James United Church, Antigonish.

### What costs will the fund cover?

The fund will be applied to registration fees but may also be used to cover other expenses such as costs of materials.

### What events or organizations might be of interest?

Any program or event which enriches faith and spiritual life will be considered including:

Programs at the Tatamagouche Centre

www.tatacentre.ca/

Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp

www.campkidston.com/

Berwick United Church Camp

www.berwickcamp.org/

Sherbrooke Lake Camp

www.sherbrookelakecamp.org/

Atlantic Seminar in Theological Education

www.astes.ca/

Atlantic School of Theology

www.astheology.ns.ca/home/UpcomingEvents.html

### How do I access this fund?

Fill out an application form (available at the door or from the church office) and submit it to the church office. Your request will be considered by a committee and you will receive a response within three weeks of submitting the application. St. James is pleased to welcome new members to the church family. For information related to becoming a member, contact Rev. Peter Smith.



Lyla Camozzi, granddaughter of Anne Camozzi, joins the Children's Chorus of St. James United for the March 29th service. (with Hope Smith)



Following your attendance at the event it is expected that you will share the experience with the congregation through a presentation, a demonstration, or a write-up in the newsletter.

Whom should I contact for more information? Ida Sarty, Christian Education Director, at: ida@stjamesuc.com

# Spring Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up – BEST EVER!

On Monday 25 May an intrepid group performed the clean up of St James' adopted intersection, Exit 32 at the intersection of Highways 7 and 104. This program performs two important services – the beautification of Antigonish and the protection of our environment.



The old saying "Many hands make light work" held true, as we went further "off road" and collected twice as many bags of litter (27) - in less time than ever before, making this our best effort to date! (Missing from photo – Liz Millet and Tim Hinds)

Cheerful attitudes, enthusiasm and dedication were on display. The clean up team from the church consisted of: Mike Cook, Hope Graham, Gerrit &

Marlene Groenenberg, Tim Hinds, Liz Millet and Brenda Rose. We were delighted to be joined by the following from A&W - Manager Jennifer Baudoux and employees Brandon Smith, Lindsey Smith and Julissa Stewart. And from Tim Hortons -Manager Cathy Fraser and employee Vanessa Fuduric. The additional personnel from the fast food outlets really increased our numbers and made the evening pass quickly. Amongst the more amusing "finds" were three boots (who was this three legged man?) and a plastic seedling tray that had been spray painted onto the road while the crews were painting the yellow lines!

We also diverted one full bag of refundables and that money will again go toward the Benevolent Fund. Following the clean up we had time for some snacks and distribution of some Adopt-A-Highway loot.

This past April I attended the AAH Volunteer Information Session in beautiful Port Williams. The day's events included panel discussions, excellent presentations and a fascinating tour of the Valley Waste Resource Management Building in Kentville. This international award winning "green" building has all sorts of interesting features including waterless urinals, a recycled tire foundation and tumbled glass mulch – which is really pretty sparkling in the sun! They also have a second hand store that features items retrieved from the landfill. I think every one of the session participants discovered at least one treasure! My favourite presentation was one I nicknamed CSI:Illegal Dump Sites. The gentleman who investigates these horrible locations explained the innovative methods he uses to track down and fine the "perps". It's beyond comprehension why some people still go to great efforts to dump garbage when it would probably be easier and not very expensive to dispose of it legally. I was asked to provide a short explanation of how I'd managed to get Tim Horton's staff involved in our fall '14 clean up and was happy to do so.

We'll be looking for volunteers again next fall – I'll keep you posted!

Michèle Ashby



# CHURCH GARDEN

Work has begun on the two flower beds in the pioneer cemetery and already there is an improvement in their appearance. There is a dedicated group that has been digging, dividing plants, removing surplus plants and preparing the soil.

The next step will be the planting and we are very appreciative of the advice given us by Bruce of Pleasant Valley Nursery. Some of the plants that were removed will be for sale on the plant table at the Stump Frolic. There is a surprise element in one of the flower beds and we hope you will like it.

We would like to express our appreciation to the UCW and the Men's Club for their financial support towards this project.



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Over the past year we have been hearing many stories about the 1st World War. Here is another related to this congregation

Antigonish and within the Church on Sabbath morning March 31, 1918 after divine service the Session of St. James Church met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator and present with whom were J.H. Stewart, H. Williams, D.R. Graham, H. Baxter and A.C. Thompson Elders. Dr. Rogers produced a letter he had received from the Rev. Malcolm Osmond one of our Chaplains with the Canadian troops at the front in France advising that he had received Driver Earl Murray (Robt.'s son of Antigonish) into full communion of the Presbyterian Church on profession of his faith in Christ, and that Driver Murray made request that his name be enrolled

on the Communion Roll of St. James Church Antigonish. On motion it was unanimously agreed that this request be acceded to and his name was accordingly enrolled. There being no other business, closed with the Benediction

Anderson Rogers D. D., Mod. A.C. Thompson, Clerk



On April 7, 1918 the Moderator and Session again met in the School room to record the following in the minutes of Session;

At the morning service Dr. Rogers gave public intimation that Driver Earl Murray's name had been added to the roll according to his wish, he having made public profession of his faith in Christ at the battle front in France. The celebration of the Lord's Supper was then proceeded with at which 109 persons sat down. Closed with the Benediction.

Anderson Rogers D.D., Mod. A.C. Thompson, Clerk

# Eight Days on the Road & a Long Way from Home



Tyler, the son of a friend of mine, was offered a job at a diamond mine in Yellowknife, North West Territories. Flying is the easiest and cheapest way to travel to that city, but life is quite limited there without a vehicle, and everything costs far more there than in the south. Clearly he needed to drive his pickup truck loaded with his possessions the 7000 km to that city. However he has had very little – well no -- experience driving in a town larger than Truro, so I agreed to accompany him as a navigator.

At 6:30 a.m. on April 27 I climbed into his truck and we headed west. He likes driving and I had my crocheting and my audiobook so time passed quickly. The St. John River system was clearly at its

maximum and many treed islands were covered with water. With the early start, the energy of the first day of a journey, and familiar empty roads we reached a pleasant enough motel just south of Levi, Quebec. We had covered 1000 km.

The next day we again started quite early, hoping to beat the morning rush hours between Quebec City and Montreal. I put Beauharnois into the GPS, hoping to find route 130, the new bypass around Montreal. Well, it found route 30, through Chateaugay, but that sounded to me like a stop and go route through towns, so I dropped Beauharnois and entered Ottawa so that we ended up travelling through Montreal after all. We crossed on the most southern bridge and took a throughway below street level. It was the easiest trip through Montreal I have ever taken, which was some consolation. Looking at google maps now, I suspect 30 was the road we wanted. Ah, well...

I decided Tyler needed a break from driving after Montreal, so I took the wheel for the first time. He fidgeted with his phone in the passenger seat, and I yawned with boredom in the driver's seat. Those two hours were the sum and total of my driving. We were both much happier when he was behind the wheel.

We puttered around the outskirts of Ottawa, so that the truck could have its oil changed. Tyler had been unable to arrange that before we left and was very concerned about keeping his truck well maintained. It was a beautiful day, and I didn't mind the time outside the truck, but we only got as far as Sudbury that day. I was exhausted and Tyler was also tired so we decided not to set the alarm clock in



the morning.

We lingered in Ontario, stopping in Marathon for one night and then at Kenora the next. It is an amazingly big province, with very varied levels of prosperity. Once past cottage country, the economy north of Lake Superior appeared as depressed as any I have seen in Canada.

In Kenora we stayed at a B&B. It was lovely, and the owners were gracious. Tyler particularly enjoyed the husband who was an avid hunter. A timber wolf pelt laid on the floor in the living room, and a wolverine was on the balcony railing with numerous smaller critters scattered about.

The prairies are lovely to drive through. The spring fields, some turning green, others freshly ploughed, are crossed by shallow ravines and hillocks, so the view is varied, and much, much wider than when travelling through forest. Farm houses appear regularly, each fenced around by poplar trees, clearly planted to break the wind. And, surprise of surprises, Subway plays the role of Tim Horton's in Western Canada. No wonder there is a cultural divide between the Western and Eastern regions.

Navigating Edmonton was our biggest challenge. We arrived at the end of our day when we were at our most tired. I found a motel on the east side of the city and put it into the GPS, but as we approached the exit ramp indicated we discovered it was under construction. After recalculation, we were directed down another road, again blocked by construction. After a bit more twisting and turning we became more and more frustrated, so when we found ourselves on a major road through the city, we kept driving. Finally, two hours later and well to the west of Edmonton, we came to the Haven Inn, a modest place but quiet and with clean beds. We gratefully stopped there.

Our next stop for the night was High Level Alberta, and then we were on the last leg to Yellowknife. The road was straight as an arrow with stunted forest on either side, but the tedium was relieved by a turnoff to a waterfall on the Hay River and by bison grazing by the side of the road. We stopped and watched them (there was no traffic to block) but we were not tempted to get out of the truck and move closer.



Yellowknife is bigger than I expected, about 25,000 people or half the population of the North West Territories. Since it is the capital of the territory, government offices are located there and the city has a very modern appearance. Northern Alberta and Yellowknife have more ethnic diversity than I expected. Immigrants go wherever regions are growing. We had dinner in an authentic Ethiopian restaurant while we were there.

I found the history of the city very instructive as well. Except for the fur trade which complemented native culture, external economic activity had a large impact only in the 1930s when commercial gold mining began. Although I am ignorant of the history of Indian agents, missionaries, and Residential Schools in the area, modernization and the dispossession of native cultures is still continuing. It is not just a centuries' old history.

Now Tyler is in camp at the diamond mine. He boarded a company plane and flew to an air strip that served several mine sites, and then took a bus to Lac de Gras. He is there, isolated with other workers, for two weeks, and then he has two weeks off in Yellowknife. In the meantime I'm enjoying a summery day here at home, with lots of memories of the countryside of Canada.

# World War II Remembered by Local Cadets

In early May three of our congregants joined a group of Army and Air Cadets from Antigonish who travelled to Europe to participate in activities commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and Victory in Europe.

Captain Tim Hinds, Cadet Sergeant Gavin Semple and

Cadet Master Corporal Taylor Estabrooks of 285 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps accompanied sixty-one other cadets and adult staff from Nova Scotia on the trip.

The cadets attended ceremonies at Canadian cemeteries with a large group of Canadian WWII veterans who had fought in the area, as well as joining the Dutch in their own remembrance ceremonies and silent marches commemorating their liberation.

In Holten Canadian War Cemetery we joined the Canadian Prime Minister, Princess Beatrice of the Netherlands and other dignitaries for the official Dutch ceremony commemorating their liberation. In Wageningen NL the cadets carried the Canadian and Nova Scotian flags while leading a silent parade of 3,000 walking through the old battlefields around Nijmegen up to the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. All three from St. James were part of a select group of twenty-four Canadians that had the privilege of accompanying the Prime Minister's wife, Laureen Harper, to the site of Westerbork concentration camp to meet and talk with two Holocaust survivors as well as a Canadian veteran who actually helped liberate the camp in 1945. Although only one of many such camps, Westerbork is significant in that it was the camp that Anne Frank was held in until being sent to the Auschwitz death camp.

Departing Holland we attended a remembrance ceremony at Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium and made stops at several other Canadian and one German war



cemetery. Visits in France included the monument, tunnels and trenches of Vimy Ridge, the new Juno Beach Visitor Centre and the house made famous in the film of Canadian troops landing on Juno Beach and jumping off their landing craft – now known as "Canada House".

The trip finished with a short but packed twelve hours seeing the sights of Paris (Louvre, Eiffel Tower, boat cruise on the Seine, etc.) before heading home. It was the "trip of a lifetime". A trip that will certainly require years for the significance of all the events witnessed to register fully in our minds.

Tim Hinds



Dorothy Gregor and her daughter Kathy went to the UCW dinner and Grandmothers to Grandmothers presentation, celebrating her birthday at the same time.

# Senior Fellowship

On May 23rd, fifteen members of the St. James United Senior Fellowship Group enjoyed an outing to the Knoydart Farm cheese facility in Knoydart, Pictou County.

The group was welcomed by Frazer Hunter, owner of this facility, who took the time to explain the rigorous steps that go into the making of the various cheeses he produces. He explained the rigid regulations that must be followed in order to be certified as an organic producer. How rigid? The organic milk produced by the cows of Knoydart Farm, just a short distance from the cheese-making building, has to be moved between the two buildings by Scotsburn Dairies and not by the Hunter family or their employees.

The blueberries and chives used in the manufacture of some of his signature products must also be certified organic, and government inspectors visit the farm several times a month to ensure that all regulations are being adhered to.

But the highlight of this visit was the tasting session, when members had the opportunity to sample several of the different cheddar cheeses produced on site: garlic, chive, beer, Caerphilly, just to name a few. They also had the opportunity to purchase some of these cheeses.

Knoydart Farm's cheese house is open to the public throughout the year, and when no one is available the building is left open and customers simply select the cheese they desire and leave their payment in the container on the table. This honour system has served them well over the years.

Following this outing, the Senior Fellowship group enjoyed tea and conversation at Bennett's new store where suggestions for future activities were offered. Some of the ideas included a visit to Landsdowne Park, a visit to the soap-making factory in Sherbrooke, a talk given by Jocelyn Gillis from the Heritage Museum and several other excellent suggestions.

The Senior Fellowship Group welcomes new members and anyone who wishes to become a part of this group should approach Brenda Botterill, Allan Brand, Barb Gardener or any other member of the group for more information.

# Church Humour

PASTOR: Praise the Lord! CONGREGATION: Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Will everyone please turn on their tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor. 13:13.

Please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon. Now, let us pray committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God. As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready. You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password 'Lord909887.

The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers:

- a. Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.
- b. Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.
- c. Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements:

- a. This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chat takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.
- b. Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs. Please don't miss out.
- c. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counselling and prayers.

God bless you and have nice day.



St. James United Celebrates Its 90th Anniversary

# BERWICK CAMP

On May 24th Sharon Whitmee spoke to the congregation about the wonderful times to be had at Berwick Camp, the longest-running United Church camp in Canada, which will be held this year from July 24th to August 2nd. Sharon and her family have been attending Berwick for over 30 years.

Interested members should be aware that there is a Spiritual Enrichment Fund that is available to individuals and families to help defray costs associated with spiritual events. Contact Peter Smith for details of this fund.

Berwick United Church camp is a ten-day family camp in the small town of Berwick in the lovely Annapolis Valley. The 2015 Camp will be held from July 24 to August 2. Approximately 900 campers

converge on Berwick each year partaking in a variety of programs and activities.

Morning and evening worship is led by this year's evangelist Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas from Indiana and Theology for Today by Rev. Sandra Beardsall. The youth group meets each weekday morning (Grade 6 through high school), younger children ages four and up attend vacation Bible school and for the very young, babies and toddlers there is the nursery.

Activities may include the book club, yoga, UCW day, crafts, organized sports, prayer shawl knitters, just to name a few. Music is a very important part of Berwick. There are many venues to showcase talents, be it in the choir, at evening sing songs, in the musical production, the variety show, or the very popular drumming.

As of 2013 Berwick started the new program, ICE: inclusive camping experience. It allows

people with intellectual and/or physical disabilities to partake in the camp's many activities and programs. As part of this initiative there are Berwick buddies, a peer visitation program and respite providers, to provide accompaniment for campers with intellectual or physical disabilities so that they or caregivers are able to attend programming or have personal time.

Berwick is a wonderful place, a place of sharing, faith, nurturing, spiritual renewing, caring and lots of good times and laughter.

To learn more about Berwick and the particulars of this year's camp please visit www.berwickcamp.org/newsite.

For registration and accommodation questions contact Brian and Krista Rietzal, registrars 1 506- 854- 3218 or rietzel@gmail.com

John Graham-Pole and Dorothy Lander have been involved in this creative event, scheduled over several dates this summer. The ones at Town Point need to be registered for as there is a shuttle to the site. St. James' history goes back to this site and those early settlers as our own Presbyterian roots were established at that same time on the grounds where we are now.



# Berwick Camp





BERWICK CAMP 144, Friday, July 24 - Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015

Our Vision: Berwick Camp, by the grace of God, seeks to be a haven of spiritual renewal by providing an environment where all can nurture and be nurtured by God's love, among God's people, in God's place together.

# Programs & Worship for All

- Early Morningside Service
- Parents' co-op Nursery, Vacation Bible School and Youth Group
- Theology for Today Bible study
- Afternoon cribbage games, children's crafts, story time, a variety of sports for all ages
- Evening worship under the forest canopy with the evangelist
- yoga, prayer shawl knitters, late evening sing-songs, UCW Day, community party, live and silent auctions, children's fun fair, book sale

EVANGELIST: Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas, Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics & Director of the Academy of Preaching & Celebration at Christian Theological Seminary of Indianapolis, Indiana

THEOLOGY FOR TODAY LEADER: Rev. Sandra Beardsall, professor of church history and ecumenics. St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

YOUTH LEADERS: Ruth Noble, Mission and Service Engagement Coordinator, United Church of Canada; Bethe Benjamin Cameron, ministerial student, Atlantic School of Theology

# 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, 25 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

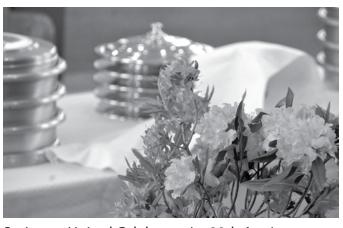
# **Questions?** Suggestions?

Ask GWCTD Committee Members:
Michèle Ashby (232-3473) // Pamela
Cunningham (863-3816)

Doug Hunter (863-6737) // Randy Lauff
(863-8341) // Joyce Stephen (863-1580)

George Templeman & Christine Templeman
Cleary (872-0542)

Lori Young 863-9377



St. James United Celebrates Its 90th Anniversary

On April 19th, the congregation of St. James heard from several speakers from the organization Breaking the Silence. The Men's Choir provided the music for this special service.



# Did you know . . . ?

On Saturday April 11th the United Church Women hosted a coffee and learning session that included the St. Ninian CWL and the St. Paul's Anglican women. The subject of this gathering was Proclaiming Hope, Joy and Compassion and an offering of \$315 was donated to Sleeping Children Around the World to purchase sleeping kits for children supported by this organization.

# Did you know . . . ?

St. James United purchases all coffee used for church-related events from Free Trade Guatemala: Breaking the Silence? Although this coffee costs \$ 1.00 more than other coffee, the money raised through the sale of Free Trade Coffee goes directly to the farmers of Guatemala

# Did you know . . . ?

The St. James United Church Women donated \$200 to go toward the upgrading of the cemetery gardens?



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www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm