



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The warmer weather has finally arrived. After a spring which was wet and cold we are at last seeing some sunny and hot weather. As a result cottages are being opened, summer plans are being made, and the normal routines of life are being put on hold as July and August promise opportunities for relaxation, fun, and renewal.

The summer months are a wonderful time for slowing life down and just enjoying the moment. They are a great opportunity to travel, to go somewhere new, and to spend time visiting with family and friends. The summer also offers us the chance to pause and take some time to be with God.

For when we have set aside the usual rush of schedules and work then we are ready to experience and appreciate the blessings which God has given to us. The truth is that we have wonderful people in our church and in our community and we live in a land filled with beauty and majesty. Those blessings surround us throughout the year but the break that summer offers means we can take the time to look carefully and see, to listen intently and hear, and to think deeply and know how rich our lives are because of God's love and grace.

My hope and prayer for all of us in the church is that we make time this summer to look at our lives and see the incredible gifts that God has given us so our faith and trust in God is strengthened and deepened. May God bless you and your family.

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

*Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!*

~ Psalm 46:10 ESV



My Pastor

I owe him enough of my time to help in the work wherever he may need me.

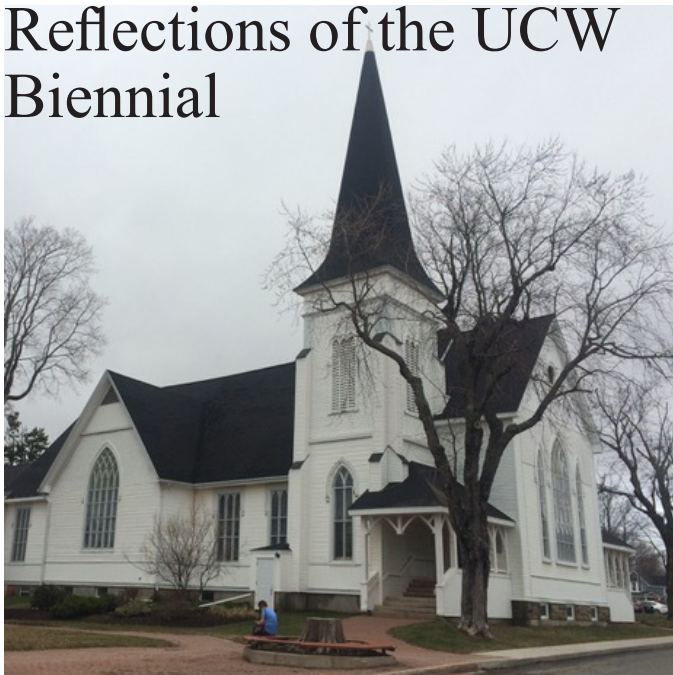
I owe him trust, that he may be free to serve the church unhampered by criticism and fault-finding.

I owe him respect as the ambassador of God, sent to teach me a better way of living than the selfish, sordid existence I might be guilty of but for his guidance.

I owe him prayer that God may make his service a blessing to every one with whom he comes in contact.

submitted by Marilyn Swim

Reflections of the UCW Biennial



The weekend of April 27-29th saw the gathering of United Church Women in Summerside, PEI. Trinity Church hosted the event-packed biennial meeting where nearly 150 women from congregations across the Maritimes came together. This being my first UCW Biennial, I had no idea what to expect... except that I would likely be the youngest attendee. I can say that I came away with a renewed appreciation for the hard work of the United Church Women.

The event featured an incredibly well organized mix of activities, from container gardening workshops to comedy sketches to music concerts, and of course lots of food! The highlight of the weekend was a motivational talk by Summerside native, and Olympian Bobsledder Heather Moyse. Heather's story of perseverance in the face of obstacles pushed us all to reconsider how our self-doubt can make us our own worst enemies. Though she seems heroic and untouchable, she is personable and down-to-earth in a way that is so unexpected considering her accomplishments. It was truly a treasured experience to hear her speak. I know there is more than one of us who heard her speak who want to find a way to bring her to Antigonish!

Each of us from St James attended a different workshop. Unfortunately, the one that I chose was canceled (Native Council of PEI). But I took advantage of the time to get to know Myrna Wicks. She is very involved in Church In Action, who have been working

to convince the United Church pension board to divest from gold companies who are devastating indigenous communities in Guatemala. It is absolutely sickening for me to know that my husband's pension is being invested in Tahoe Resources, who are implicated in the murder of indigenous community members who opposed the mine. The situation has devolved to the point that Tahoe Resources are being sued by their shareholders because of the stagnated progress of the mine's expansion. The pension board has refused to divest despite pressure. I have personal connections to Guatemala, and am deeply concerned about this matter. This unplanned meeting between Myrna and I was the highlight of the weekend for me.

The biennial was significant for the UCW because there will be changes in the church, which will be reflected in the structure of the UCW. Further, this weekend marked the end of the five year project regarding the poverty dolls - given to MP and other leaders to highlight the ongoing tragedy of child poverty in Canada. The incoming President, Ruth Kennedy, dedicated the next two years to the theme of "Unfinished". The theme reminds us that changes are part of God's plan, and that there is more in the UCW's future than in its past. Further, she pushed us all to remember that our action must go beyond the church. She reminded us that getting older does not in any way mean that we have less to contribute. Her enthusiasm for social justice and passion for the UCW is clear. We are blessed to have her lead us during her two year mandate.

The location for the next biennial has not yet been set. There has been talk about Bermuda hosting. The cost would be quite high....but the pay back would be incredible. Something for everyone to think about!

All women of the United Church as invited to join the United Church Women. Come drop by our table at the Fall Info Fair in September to learn more!

Sarah
Armstrong



A Message from Andrea Holland

At the end of this month, I will be retiring from St. James after sixteen years with you. I wish to thank the congregation for the kindness that all of you have shown me over those years and which has made the work so fulfilling - it has been a great honour to have served as your secretary.

I would also like to thank Rev. Peter for his kindness, patience, and his steady guidance.

I am very excited to be starting a new chapter in my life, one of both freedom and adventure - even if adventure means just sitting on the porch listening to the birds.

Thank you all so much,
Andrea

We Love to Live

Today, dear Lord, we're 80 and there's much we haven't done.

We hope, dear Lord, you'll let us live until we're 81.

But then, if we haven't finished all we want to do,

Would you let us please stay a while, until we're 82?

So many places we want to go, so very much to see,

Do you think that you could manage to make it 83?

The world is changing very fast, there is so much more in store,

We'd like it very much to live until we're 84.

And if by then we're still alive we'd like to stay 'til 85!

More planes will be up in the air, so we'd really like to stick

And see what happens to the world when we turn 86.

We know, dear Lord, it's much to ask,

(and it must be nice in heaven)

But we'd really like to stay until we're 87.

We know by then we won't be fast, and sometimes will be late,

But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.

We will have seen so many things, and had a wonderful time.

So, we're sure that we'll be willing to leave at 89 . . . maybe.

Just one more thing we'd like to say, dear Lord, we thank you kindly.

But if it's O.K. with you we'd love to live past 90.

ACALA Potluck

There was a wonderful turnout as ACALA joined Cultural Connections Antigoneish for an evening of great fellowship and food. Please try to attend our first potluck of the season in early autumn. Drop a note off at the church office or contact Joanne Mackenzie (choir) if you can identify any of these children and we'll publish what we've learned in the next edition of Connections.





Men's Club

On the evening of the last Monday of April, the St. James Men's Club met for one last regular meeting before adjourning for the summer months. The meal consisted of garlic meatballs on rice, with a fresh garden salad and rolls. The high quality of the food provided by volunteer members is a constant.

Following the meal, the group was treated to a presentation by Patrick Yancey and David Morgan, board members of the Antigonish Community Energy Coop. This is an organization that works to promote the use and widespread installation of solar systems in our area. The presenters described the current state of solar power technology (very cheap and efficient compared to previous generations) and showed that even our often-overcast region has more than enough sunlight to provide for our electricity needs, whether as individuals, businesses or other institutions. Besides the environmental benefits of drawing power from a renewable source (the sun), there are the very considerable financial savings that can be realized, including, for example, at least ten years of free electricity, once a system is paid off.

A lively question and answer session soon followed, in which both Mr. Yancey and Mr. Morgan fielded a wide array of solar power-related questions, which they seemed well prepared for, and were able to answer, to the further education of us all. The Coop maintains a website at acecoop.ca where the

interested visitor will be able to find out much more about this exciting and inspiring technology.

Following the presentation, the men retired to the meeting room for a short business portion of the evening, where the just-passed Men's Club Lobster Dinner was discussed and analyzed, and the upcoming Ladies Night Lobster Dinner was planned for. Until we meet again in September!

I Now Resolve

I call to God in my trouble
Out of my strain and stress
Yet often forget to thank him
Out of my happiness

His love has never failed me
He helps me with every task
And grants me bounteous blessings
Even before I ask.

An ever-present guardian
Who always knows my need
He comforts me and guides me
In thought, and word, and deed.

I now resolve to remember
To enter his courts with praise
With gratitude and gladness
However busy my days.

Rowena Cheney

Mark Your Calendars

There will be an Info Fair after church on September 30th. Committees and groups will present through pictures and conversation the activities. Plus the public can learn how to get more info and how to sign up – a great chance to learn about the life of our church.



New Additions/Editions to the St James' Library

While attending the UCW Maritime Conference Biennial in Summerside last month, I took a little gander through the room that had been set up by the Cole Harbour Woodside Resource Centre folks. Came across three items that I thought might make good additions to our library at St. James. As soon as I've finished with them and our trusty librarians can catalogue them, they'll be added to "the stacks".

The first is called *Blindsided by Grace: Entering the World of Disability* by Robert F. Molsberry (published in 2004, 175 pages). Molsberry was an active family man, pastor and triathlete in Iowa, USA until he was nearly killed in a drunken hit and run in 1997. He should have died. But he survived to tell us the interesting story of his long recovery and rehabilitation and how as a paraplegic he has managed to remain active in his family, ministry and athletic career. He debunks Biblical perspectives (the moral view of disability and illness that says the person must have done something to deserve their condition) and the medical model (we need to "fix" people) and looks at disability as a cross-cultural adventure akin to living in a foreign country. He and his family spent numerous years living in Central America and he discovers many similarities. He discusses broad cultural concepts and the nitty gritty details of living in a wheelchair with multiple drainage tubes implanted in various parts of your largely non-functioning body. Molsberry thinks we should look at disability in the context of diversity. People living with disabilities are simply another minority group. Different societies treat disability in very different ways. And he points out that most of us are "disabled" in one way or another – glasses, hearing aids, etc. He got me thinking about chronic diseases from a new perspective. The print is rather small, making reading a bit hard, but this is worth it and will probably have you questioning your own preconceptions about disability.

Next is one I think will make a valuable addition to anyone wanting a devotional resource. *Why I Believe:*

Daily Devotions on Faith & Discipleship (published in 2017, 125 pages) is edited by Alydia Smith and is technically a Lenten devotional. However most of these short sections would work at any time of year. The "weeks" look at the following questions: what am I looking for, how has my faith changed my life, what gives me courage and strength in my faith, how do I share my faith, what am I struggling with, when have I risked faith and where do I experience hope? The eleven contributors are all allied in some fashion with United Churches and range from ministers, our current Moderator Jordan Cantwell, a First Nations man and a Canadian Muslim who practices inter-faith charity. Each devotion contains Biblical references, hymn suggestions and prayers in addition to the actual reflections. A study guide is included with helpful suggestions for group leaders. I certainly plan to use some of these devotions with the UCW in the future.

And last, but not least, is *Redefining Realistic*, (published in 2017, 290 pages) by the keynote speaker at our biennial conference, Heather Moyse. This upbeat PEI native is an occupational therapist, two-time gold medal bobsleigh Olympian, first Canadian female inductee to the World Rugby Hall of Fame, national level cyclist and now motivational speaker. In her own words she "didn't start taking sport seriously and lifting weights until she was 27 years old, when she was suddenly faced with the challenge of learning a new sport and competing in the Olympics five months later". According to Heather, "This alone demonstrates the fact that no one was 'born' to do anything. It is our choices that determine the direction and story of our lives!." She encourages you to step outside your comfort zone and challenge yourself. As someone who has overcome sports injuries and personal disappointments she knows of what she speaks. "Believe in the possibilities" is a motto she lives by and encourages the rest of us to do also. She wants you to "shift your perspective, seize your potential, and own your story" and gives advice on how to do all three. Her warm, uplifting personality shines through on each page.

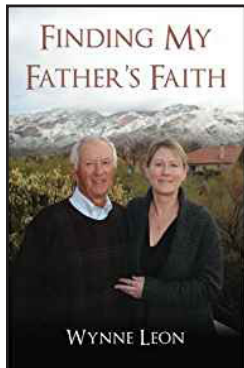
Happy reading!

Michèle Ashby

Book Reviews

by Fran Wittgens

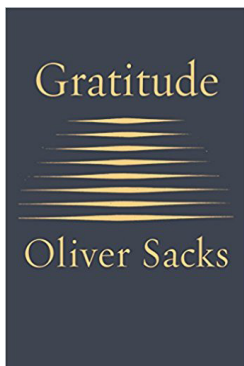
Only the first two titles are available in the church library.



Finding My Father's Faith

by Wynne Leon

The author is writing when she is in her early 40s to explore her relationship with her father, a much loved Presbyterian minister who tragically died in a bike accident a few years before this account. Wynne is one of three children raised by this exuberant and much loved man who, with his wife and family, had worked overseas and in U.S. She had a great relationship with both of them, but the topic of faith never came up. The three children had all gone separate ways, away from the church. When her father was retired, Wynne wanted to open those doors, especially as she had found her own source of spiritual strength through meditation. During the two years before his death, Wynne and her father began talking and sharing. This is a book for all of us as we consider what gives us strength and shows us how to value each other's paths. Wynne had the very challenging work of putting her life back in order after a divorce, so the book is just as engaging about her sojourn, especially when she chooses to be a single mom using in vitro fertilization.

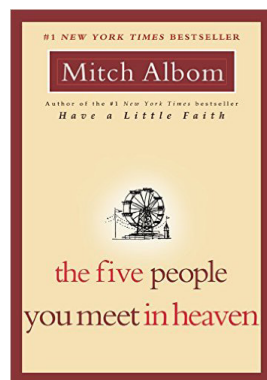


Gratitude

by Oliver Sacks

Many people know of this great scientist, doctor and writer. His book *Awakenings*, was made into a movie. Sacks in his 80th year has been told his melanoma has gone into his

liver and he has little remaining time. Thankfully he used some of the time he had left reflecting on this current reality and how it made him feel. Detachment was one experience. He had lived a life engaged but now felt that engagement was something to be left for others. Humorously he said that he didn't need to watch the news and fret. He can look back at birthdays and how his love of the Elements Table were reflected in gifts for his 80 and 81st birthdays. He thinks back about his Jewish Orthodox childhood in England and how the WWII impacted that, how his awareness of his homosexuality caused a rift in his family and his relationship to his religion. But the gratitude of going to Israel, where many of his relatives settled and feeling their open acceptance and love was healing. This book is a fast read but left some insights.



The Five People You Meet in Heaven

by Mitch Albom

This book spent many months on the best seller lists. There is Eddie, a maintenance worker at an amusement park. He's been a widower for over 30 years, and has a bum leg from a war injury amongst other aches and pains. But he's still at work the day he dies. A car on a ride malfunctions. Eddie sees the imminent danger for a young girl and throws himself toward her to save her, getting crushed himself. This is revealed in the opening. The remainder of the book takes place when he's in Heaven where he meets five different people. Each has impacted his life in some way. The germ of the book for me is how we mostly don't understand ourselves in life and our effects on others. These five people bring understanding. Especially poignant is for Eddie to learn more about the father he wanted to love but couldn't.

How Does Faith Inform My Life

from a talk given by Brian MacLeod to the Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by St. Ninian Parish

About a year ago a friend who is active at St. Ninian's asked me if I would consider speaking at the men's prayer breakfast the following November. The theme is always the same, "How does Faith inform my life." I agreed to do the speech, but I did not really know what the theme meant at first. However, my friend arranged for me to meet and discuss it with Father Donald MacGillivray. I had met Father Don briefly at the funeral of a friend where Sheumais was singing, and instantly liked the man, but that still did not explain the theme!

We met a few times over the next few months, and I ultimately came to understand that there was no fixed meaning. Rather it was up to me how I was to interpret it. I spent a great deal of time working on the talk, trying to recall some of the feelings I had fought so hard to forget. For those who may not know my story, I have had cancer twice, and survived stem cell / bone marrow transplants both times. In addition I have raised a family and had the usual trials and tribulations associated with that experience.

So here is the text of the speech, with minimal editing except in places where things do not carry over from spoken to written word. Some is in note form, so you may have to fill in the occasional word or two. I hope it is of some help to all who read it.

Thank you for the honour to speak to you this morning.

Some thought this was a St. Ninian event and were surprised to hear that a Protestant was speaking here. Fr. Don and I were having lunch one day discussing this talk, and met a member of my church who was watching us with a somewhat puzzled look. I assured him I was not converting, which helped with the puzzled look until Fr. Don say, "maybe I will convert!"

I am following some accomplished people

*Steve Konchalski, the Premier, Kent MacDonald.
Big shoes to fill.*

*When first approached I agreed easily, not a hard job
Then I struggled with what to say
Met Father Don and Steve Konchalski, both said,
just talk about yourself!
Then it got easier to find material*

*I grew up in a house filled with faith.
My dad had a limited education but a great faith
His was not a blind faith, but it was unquestioned
Time and time again it was challenged by life but
"The lord will provide" was his mantra.
This is what drives my faith.*

*My dad requested that a Tennyson poem be read
at his graveside:*

***Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me
And let there be no mourning at the bar
When I put out to sea
But such a tide as moving seems asleep
Too full for time or foam
When that which turns from out the silent deep
Turns again home***

***Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark
And let there be no sadness of farewell when I
depart***

***For though from out the bourn of time and place
The flood may bear me far
I hope to meet my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.***

*Here is a simple living man, little formal
education, who understood the lessons of faith. He
was prepared for his next journey, and never doubted
where it would take him.*

This is the world I grew up in, filled with faith.

*Through great financial and human hardships my
family survived with never faltering faith.*

*I remember three days before he died his reciting
a hymn called "oh for a Faith..."*

- *Oh, for a faith that will not shrink, Though pressed by every foe, That will not tremble on the brink Of any earthly woe!*
- *That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod, But, in the hour of grief or pain, Will lean upon its God.*
- *A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without; That when in danger knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt.*
- *Lord, give me such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come, I'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.*

This was one of the greatest influences on my life and my faith.

For me my faith is not the same as my religion. To some that may seem like an odd thing to say, but it is true. Faith to me is the gift I have received from the Almighty, and it is a permanent part of me that does not change. It goes with me whether I am worshiping in St. James, my home church, or here at the Cathedral where I often find myself for special events in the lives of friends.

One year at Christmas a group of friends gathered at my apartment and around 11:30 we realized we were going to be late for Midnight mass. By the time we got to the cathedral and came in the doors, the Bishop was already at the front. The only seats empty were those few pews that are up front beside the pulpit. We respectfully made our way up and sat down, but there was no way to be inconspicuous! Needless to say the Bishop was surprised to see me among the late contingent, but we were welcomed and all went well! Faith works everywhere!

But I try not to have faith just in church. It is with me working in my wood shop, fishing on a beautiful river somewhere, or working at my job.

Faith is my connection to what's out there, the great and powerful force I can not and need not explain. I have no need to explain my faith, it just "is". Someone once said "If faith was small enough

for our minds it would not be big enough for our needs." How true.

I think of myself as a religious person as I expect most of you do. Religion to me is a way to celebrate my faith, to ponder what is right and wrong, to give thanks for all I have, and do all those things that we normally consider religion to be. But it is never in conflict with my faith. Religion is of man, faith is of God.

I was having lunch some time back with a very good friend of mine, and the conversation turned to religion. I recounted how I had just read a book called, "Misquoting Jesus". This book explains much of how we got the texts we now have in the Christian bible, and some of the things that scholars have found in researching its writing and/or compilation. (This is not meant to be a scholarly dissertation on the writing of the Bible. I'm just making a point about my faith here.)

I explained that one thing they discovered is that the copying process, before the printing press, was fraught with difficulties because of lack of punctuation. In those days the monks would just write the words, one after the other, without capitals, periods, or commas. This leaves much opened to interpretation. I used the example of the soldier going off to war who went to a fortune teller before deploying.

He came home, told his wife the fortune teller told him he would be fine, went off to war and was killed almost at once. The very upset wife went to the fortune teller and asked why she had been so wrong? The fortune teller disagreed, and the wife grew more angry. "You told him," she said, "you will go, you will return, never in battle will you die!"

"No", said the fortune teller," I said, "You will go, you will return never, in battle will you die!" So you can see how punctuation has its value!

Iain asked me if that sort of thing made me question my faith. I said not at all. A legitimate question, how faith and religion are separate for me, and while religion struggles to be relevant, faith is constant.

Much of our tests of faith come from difficult times in our lives and it is difficult to not just stand here and talk about one thing after another that has been difficult and that my faith took me through. Often when we are having a problem we pray hard and ask God to help us by fixing things. "Make it better!", "Why don't you do something?" This is a trap I try hard to avoid, but being human I am not always successful!

As I worked on these notes, I had a dear friend who was having a crisis of faith. Her mom was not only ill but suffering. She wondered how that could be allowed to happen. Here is part of the text exchange. I recount this because it gave me a first hand example of how faith informs my life in a real situation.

Friend was discouraged as her mother was in hospital and suffering, as was mine at the same time. "I decided today I will be an atheist going forward because there is no way a loving god would dish out so much cruelty to such a decent human being."

My response, "But remember, god walks with us to support us. God does not 'do things to us'. If he did we would not have free will."

There have been two events in my life that have caused great pain, consternation and not so much a testing of my faith, but required me to use up any reserve I might have had built up in that area!

Most of you know my oldest son William is autistic. The impact of hearing these words 22 years ago was unimaginable. The level of knowledge about this disability was archaic at that time. Today we have all manner of systems and programs to help people cope. Not so at that time. The news was devastating!

William is a singer, a want-to-be cowboy, an artist, a collector of books, and also autistic.

William began collecting copies of Black Beauty books at a young age, because they were about horses, which he loves, but also because he was able to better understand his emotions by reading about the emotions of this beautiful animal.

When we first heard the diagnosis, we were shaken and afraid, to say the least. I remember the Psychologist asking me, "What are you going to do?" It never occurred to me or Irene to do anything other than to go forward and just do whatever we could. I remember telling her my dad always said, "play the cards you're dealt!"

She looked at me as if I was strange, but what I was saying was that while I knew it would be difficult, I knew "the lord would provide". I knew our faith would bring us through. Today that child who was not supposed to even develop full language, sings at concerts all over the town and county, bringing great joy to us all, and his life is a testament to faith.

The other event in my life which was a test of faith and survival was being diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. I was 47 years old, and had three small children. My oldest was 12, my youngest was 5. It is difficult to describe this experience, not because of the emotion, but because of the complexity of it, the force of it, and the life changing impact of it. I will be as brief as possible but I want to be sure everyone has a flavour of what it is like.

In my early 40's I started to feel unwell. I was getting tired, but not in ways that sleep would help. I remember sitting in a chair in my driveway trimming a hedge and being so very tired. My good friend Cathy Smith came by; stopped to chat and commented that I must have really been enjoying my gardening because I was sitting down to finish. I remember saying I was sitting because I had a tiredness, and I used the expression, "right in my bones".! Little did I know at the time how accurate I was? Multiple Myeloma is, of course, bone cancer!!!

Some years later at 47 years old I was diagnosed. You have friends who have cancer and you feel sorry, sad, and surprised when they are diagnosed. But it's not the same as when it is you!! You have heard the expression, "It feels like someone hit me in the stomach and knocked my wind out!" It really does feel like that, for days!!

You literally have trouble breathing!! You don't

know what lies ahead! The only person I knew with the same disease was Lloyd MacKinnon, and I did not know him well. As it turned out, Lloyd passed away about five days after my diagnosis, so that was terrifying!

My kids were young, my business was young. I had been told, "This was an "old man's disease"! 'I was too young to have it. (Tell that to the disease !)

So what do I do? I reached back to my younger years and remembered being with my dad when he coped with lung cancer. Faith was front and centre for him. I knew I had to do the same. When I knew that my faith would be what would get me through this, not knowing what lay at the end, I was comforted somewhat, but I had to confront the reality that the "getting through " may mean dying !!

What followed was two years of endless pain, upset stomachs, problems with normal body functions that by themselves seem insignificant, but collectively are devastating ! Endless needles, injections, "procedures", appointments, tests, and trying to find foods that do not cause more problems than they solve. Infections are a constant threat, both inside the body and on the outside. What might be thought of by most as insignificant abrasions on the skin need to be watched and evaluated, monitored and treated, to prevent any increase in their size or effect.

When your body is not working right, when you can not even get into the shower without it being a major effort, you can very quickly become frustrated and depressed. Depression is an epidemic in our society, and we are not handling it well. We still have the idea that we can "pull ourselves up by our bootstraps", or fix this problem on our own. And it is still an embarrassment to us to say we have depression. It is a flaw in our character and in our genes if we have depression. I found myself caught up in this problem, needed to tell people that I had problems with depression, but " it was induced or caused by the chemo I had taken," as if this excuse would lessen the possibility that they would think of it as being in my genes!

Here it became necessary for me to lean on my faith to get through this problem. When you give these things up to a greater power, you don't have the burden, and your load is much lighter !

But there are other times when faith is tested when we are not having crisis at all, because we are having a good time and there are temptations that are most enjoyable. This is the Sodom and Gomorra option! Faith for me is intertwined with my personal moral code, my decisions that guide me in how I treat others, in how I respect others, and in how I find enjoyment in my life.

In the world of business there have been many times when there were options to avoid tax, to take things which were not really mine, and to do things that you know are just wrong. It is surprising to me how much the world will offer you, if they are under the impression that you are successful. Just ask Donald Trump on his bus trip! Now I'm not suggesting that I am as popular as the President, but neither am I as unpopular!

Many times, I have had opportunity to take advantage of someone who is down on their luck. People sell things at very low prices when they are in trouble, and there is a great temptation to take advantage of it. Justification is easy, "it's just business", "nothing personal"! Well, if you live by your faith, nothing is "just business." But believe me, if pushed, I strike out the same as anyone would. Sometimes I can justify striking back by saying I am protecting others against this evil! Kind of the 'Batman defence', pretending we are just protecting others.. But at those times we all know we are just fooling ourselves.

I bought a nursing home once that had been owned by a town and county non-profit board. There were a lot of problems with the place in terms of the business side of the operation. One person was in jail for stealing, there was evidence of many creative ways that some board members were benefiting financially from their doing business with the facility, and it was quite wide spread. It was a little like the despicable exploits revealed recently by a Hollywood Producer;

which everyone seemed to know about, but no one was prepared to step up.

There were many chances to continue this kind of activity, taking out cash and no one being any the wiser. I did not. But do not think for a minute that I had not stumbled and made mistakes, done things to avoid tax, and found ways to take out cash without reporting it. I am pleased that it was only a few times in the early stages, but it was still wrong. But I finally understood what my dad meant when he said, "A man is only as honest as his means allow"!

If you are desperate for money, and there is a chance to pick up \$2500 without anyone ever knowing, you are much more tempted than if you already have money. You all understand this principle very well. I have been able to deal with this kind of temptation, but could not have done it without a faith that guides.

My point is that my faith is somehow tied to my adhering to the rules of the world. I'm a Christian, and I take my direction from the bible, from other writings, and from great thinkers over the ages in the Christian faith. But I believe that there is much to be learned from all the great writings of the world. Read the Buddhist "Four Pillars" or go to their shrine in Pleasant Bay and read their "27 Tenants". You will find yourself agreeing and practicing much of what you read.

I am struck by the poster at St. Martha's which shows the Christian "Golden Rule" and then the same thought in a dozen or so religions. The wording may be slightly different but the principal is the same.

So, my faith informs my life by deliberately trying to live according to the rules of the universe, however they are expressed. I don't think faith is just about helping us through difficult times, it is about guiding our everyday life and how we make our daily life decisions.



The Clan Thompson Pipe Band and Friends In Concert

The Clan Thompson Pipe Band, under the leadership of Pipe Major Scott Williams of Antigonish, Pipe Sergeant Madelyn Evans-Langlois of Stellarton, Drumming Instructor Ray Halliday of Shubenacadie, and Lead Drummer Judy MacMullin-Smith of Antigonish, will be staging their second major indoor concert of the 2018 season at 2:30 PM on Sunday, July 1st at St. James United Church, Main Street, Antigonish.

Adult tickets are \$10 and \$5 for Seniors and children under 12. The proceeds from the concert will go to the St. James United Church Music Bursary Fund. Tickets are available from local band members and from the church office. They may also be purchased at the door on the day of the performance.

The M.C. will be Jack Langlois, Stellarton Town Crier. Among the guest performers will be vocalists Sheumais MacLeod and Amanda MacIntosh, organist Sandra Johnson, flutist Emery van de Wiel, pianist Leona Williams, hand bells played by Tara Nicholson and Bonnie Quinn, Cindy Urquhart and her son Rowan Larson-Urquhart on chanter and violin, Luke Henderson on the trumpet, Martha Palmer on accordion and Highland Dancers Abby McKenna and Emma Barrett.

All proceeds from the concert will go to the St. James United Church Music Bursary Fund.

The concert is Sunday, July 1st, 2:30 PM at St. James.

Clan Thompson Pipe Band And Friends - In Concert



Sharon St. John United Church, Stellarton, 2016



St. James United Church, Antigonish, 2017

2:30 PM Sunday, July 1st, 2018
St. James United Church Main Street, Antigonish, NS

M.C.: Jack Langlois, Stellarton Town Crier

Special Musical Guests:

Organist: Sandra Johnson **Pianist:** Leona Williams

Accordionist: Martha Palmer

Vocalists: Sheumais MacLeod, Amanda MacIntosh

Scottish Small Pipes: Madelyn Evans-Langlois, Scott Williams

Flute: Emery Van de Wiel **Trumpet:** Luke Henderson

Piper: Brady Webb **St. James Handbells**

The Grant Highland Dancers: Abby McKenna and Emma Barrett

Chanter and Violin: Cindy Urquhart, Rowan Larson-Urquhart

Tickets \$10 adults \$5 Children Under 12 and Seniors
Available from the church office or any member of the band.

Proceeds to St. James United Church Music Bursary Fund



Introducing Joan MacGillivray

"We all love animals, but why do we call some of them pets and some of them dinner?"

K.D. Lang

Hello, my name is Joan MacGillivray and I arrived in Antigonish on Good Friday from Elliot Lake, Ontario. I finally moved here after several years of encouragement from my daughter who lives outside Toronto and my sister-in-law who lives here in Antigonish. My husband, Gerard MacGillivray, was from Antigonish and grew up here. He left in the 60s to be a golf pro in North Sydney and later Amherst. We met in Toronto and have made many trips with our children, visiting Gerard's family in Antigonish.

Easter Sunday was my first time visiting St. James United Church. My journey with the United Church began in May 1986 when I started working at the General Council Office (Church House) in Toronto. I didn't actually go to a United Church until a few years after I moved to Elliot Lake in 2005. At that time I was still working at the United Church and continued half time until I retired in 2010. While working at Church House I did experience a lot of worship services that took place during the meetings I attended plus the weekly chapel services. After a few years in Elliot Lake I was missing the worship part of the United Church and joined Holy Trinity United Church in Elliot Lake and quickly became involved.

Upon moving to Antigonish, it was important for me to join the United Church. While this is only the second United Church I've attended, they are both very similar in their welcoming of all people, their hospitality, and their commitment to social justice.

Shortly after arriving in Antigonish I checked out the Maritime Conference website and read about a weekend retreat at Tatamagouche Centre - "Pause to Listen: A Spiritual Retreat for Environmentalists". I was able to attend this event jointly sponsored by the United and Anglican Churches. It was a wonderful

opportunity to experience God's creation and the importance of protecting the world we live in. We spent time in worship, discussion, doing outside activities, and information sharing.

The first night, two indigenous Water Walkers led worship including a blessing of the water. They told us about some of the work they are doing as they walk around the Great Lakes to bring awareness about the importance of protecting all our water. Here in Nova Scotia, we are never far from water and we are called to protect all our waters.

I am very happy to have moved to Antigonish and to be a part of St. James United Church. Thank you for the welcome you have given me. It is wonderful to meet so many great people.



Heejong with Christine's daughter and granddaughter Lily.



Andrew Murray and Ruth Young along with Ruth's aunt, Janice Young, from Ancaster, Ontario and Murial Coggins from Bath, England after the Pentecost service May 20.

Bringing a Family Together



Imagine leaving your home, not knowing if you will ever return. Imagine saying goodbye to your family to travel thousands of miles away to resettle in a new home. Imagine not knowing if you will ever see your family again. And then imagine a glimmer of hope that you will, someday soon, be reunited with your sister and her family.

Three years ago, in May of 2015, members of the Antigonish community met to create SAFE, Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace. At the time, we hoped to bring one Syrian family to Antigonish but three years later we are awaiting our fifth family, who we hope will already have arrived by the time you read this article. Because of the generosity and open arms of our community, by the end of June there will be eight Syrian-Canadian families living in Antigonish, and Antigonish County, and we hope that another one will arrive before the fall. These are eight families who are contributing to the richness, the productivity, the diversity, and the spirit of our community.

But the war in Syria continues. Millions in Syria are in a desperate situation and millions who have fled Syria face incredible challenges every day as refugees in countries that are over crowded and drained of resources. So, SAFE continues to work to bring families to Antigonish, to find safety, security, and a new home.

World Refugee Day, on June 20, will be a day for us all to consider and honour the incredible courage, strength, and perseverance of refugees around the world. Make this a day when you take a few minutes to quietly contemplate the sacrifices, the risks, and

the courageous acts of refugees and please keep these millions in your prayers.

And take some time to consider how you can support SAFE in our work to reunite a family that has been apart too long and that has suffered too much. The United Church of Canada calls on its members to continue to “work to share God’s love on a personal, local and global level.” (United Church of Canada website, June 11, 2018). SAFE must raise \$60, 000 to do this. We are, therefore, asking Antigonish to help SAFE reach our fundraising goal.

If you are interested in donating to SAFE you can do so by sending a cheque by mail or dropping it off at the Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre, donating online through our website at safeantigonish.ca or sending an e-transfer to safamiliesembrace@gmail.com (preferred method of donation).

The Worker

The world maker
begin and end
the God the creator
and my very best friend

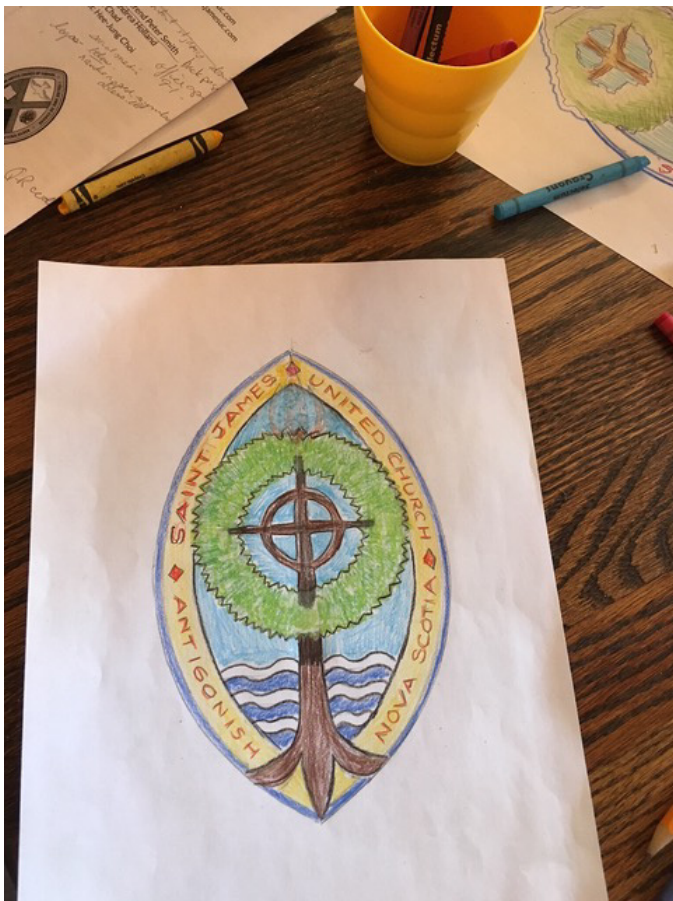
Lord, you are good to me
when you came to my rescue
and you set me free
God can I say your love
and kindness is with
me today.

I love my God
the up and the beginning
until the end
my special person
he is my friend.

- Margie (Mary) Turner

This poem is an except from The Ninth Volume, a collection of Margie’s work. If you are interested in supporting her work by purchasing a book of her poetry for \$5 please call 902-867-3100.

St. James Congregational Logo



The Outreach and Communication Committee is creating a series of brochures for Congregational use and realized that while we have a crest/logo for the United Church we do not have anything that has been designed to express visually who we are as a congregation.

Andrew Murray worked with the members of the Committee- Fran Wittgens, Linda Darwish, Rev. Peter Smith, Sarah Armstrong, and Barbara DeMarsh to develop a logo to serve this purpose. Intended primarily for brochures, the logo will be presented to the Church Council in the fall with hope that Council will adopt it for use on letterhead and the Sunday bulletin as a witness to our beliefs and heritage.

The Cross and Tree

The centre of the logo is a Celtic cross, a reminder of our Scottish heritage at St. James and the centrality of the death and resurrection of Jesus to our Christian faith. The cross is also a tree, a representation of the

Elm Tree which stood for so long in front of the building (where the lion and the lab statue sits today). The leaves of the tree form a wreath, a reminder of the unending love of God and the Advent wreath used to call us to welcome Jesus and the gifts God brings through him into our lives.

The Roots and Waters

The roots of the tree expand in three and form a fleur-de-lys reminding us of the Acadian peoples in our community while the waters at the base of the tree represent the three rivers which meet at Antigonish and that our church is built on the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq peoples. The tree is also in reference to Psalm 1 reminding us that as a church we are to focus on the Word of God to become like trees planed by streams producing good things and withstanding adversity.

The Shape and Colours

The oval shape is the same as the crest of the United Church and when placed on it's side and extending the roots forms the ancient Christian symbol of a fish. The blue sky is a reminder of the hope of each new day which is always ours through grace. The gold around the lettering symbolizes the authority and glory of God while the red is a reference to the Holy Spirit who infuses our life together.



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www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm