



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 12 • Issue 3 • Autumn 2018

*The wolf also shall dwell with
the lamb, and the leopard shall
lie down with the kid; and the
calf and the young lion and the
fatling together; and a little
child shall lead them.*

Isaiah 11:6



*The wolf and the lamb will feed
together, and the lion will eat
straw like the ox, and dust will
be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain," says
the LORD.*

Isaiah 65:25

Dear Friends in Christ,

On a beautiful sunny day this summer, a group of children and mothers were gathered around the lion and lamb statue. I told them they were welcome to pet the statue if they liked and the kids rushed forward. One of the boys said how much he liked the lion. When his mother pointed out the lamb, he stepped back and asked "Why are a lion and lamb sitting together?"

The mother shrugged and looked over at me. My mind raced over the scripture verses from Isaiah as well as the theme of peace which is found in both the Old and New Testaments and I prayed that my words could do all those profound concepts justice.

"Because they're friends and want everyone else to be friends too," I replied. The answer satisfied the children who petted the lion and lamb once more before continuing on their way.

There is a richness and depth to the Christian story. As we mature in our faith, we better understand our call and the surprising nature of God's grace and love. Yet there is also a simplicity to the basic values which we are called to live out for everyone to see. For the truth is that if we are good people, generous people, kind people, and if we cross divisions in order to make friends then we demonstrate the gospel message to the world.

May God continue to bless us in our journey of faith.

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

New to You

Hi I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Patsy Farrell and I am the "new/old" secretary at St. James. My husband Allan and I have lived in Antigonish since we were married 41 years ago and have been members of St. James for over 30 years. Twenty-seven years ago I was fortunate enough to be hired as the secretary for St James, taking over from June Lawson, and today I find myself once again the secretary at St. James taking over from Andrea Holland. Andrea did a great job and the congregation at St James were lucky to have her. I have big shoes to fill and want to thank Andrea for all her help. There have been many changes in 27 years and I am excited and humbled to once again serve as secretary for St. James. I look forward to working with Rev Peter, the staff at St James and the congregation.

Where Are They Now?



Fran Wittgens was surprised to see that the conductor of the Men's Police Choir that performed in the University Chapel recently was Natalie Robinson. Natalie was a 4th year music major at StFX in 2004. She composed the music to Fran's lyrics in the St James anniversary musical Church in the Wildwood, performed with many from the congregation as actors. Natalie is married and lives in Cambridge, Ontario.

Sunday School Update

At St. James, we adopted a "Children's Worship" style of Sunday School in 2017. Under this format, volunteers lead a worship service for the children, which includes songs and prayer. As part of the worship, the adult volunteers tell a Bible story, using simple language, figurines, sandbox, and other props to ignite the children's imagination and curiosity. After the children hear the Bible story, the volunteers encourage them to wonder and question the story and the meaning within it. Next, the children 'work' with the story to create meaning from the story in a personal way. For example, they might create a piece of art, a clay model, or play out their own version of the Bible story. Their service ends with prayers, songs, and a small snack. Despite their infinite amounts of energy, the children embrace the opportunities for quiet reflection and discussion.

So how do we run the program? Currently, we have a group of active, patient, and enthusiastic volunteers who assume one of two roles during the service. The 'doorkeeper' helps the children settle to pray and listen to the story, and helps manage some of the behaviours or dynamics during the service. The 'storyteller' leads the children through prayer, songs, and the Bible story of the day. If you would like a fun yet thoughtful role in the Church, or would like to learn more about what goes on during Children's Worship, we would love to hear from you. Please contact a member of the CF&D (Christian Faith and Development) Committee or myself, Claire MacDonell, for more information.

In peace and kindness,
Claire MacDonell
CF&D Coordinator

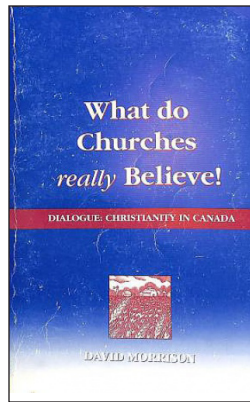
How NOT to Water the St. James Garden

Written & illustrated by Diane Theuerkauf & grandchildren



Do not pick the flowers for Nana.
Do not put all the water in one place.
do not step on the flowers.
Do not try to carry too much water at one time.
Do not spray the hose at Nana (although I must admit, it felt wonderful on hot July days).





What Do Churches Really Believe!: Dialogue Christianity In Canada

by David Morrison

I have an interest in Christian theology – what commonalities the denominations hold, and what disagreements both historical and modern keep us apart. So, when Betty Webber introduced me to David Morrison’s “What Do Churches Really Believe!” from our library, I checked it out immediately.

Though perhaps a bit dated, the book is an easy read and excellent overview of religious belief in Canada. Presented in the form of twelve interviews with prominent members of their respective denomination, the editor gives space for each interviewee to discuss the unique aspects of their belief system. His questions are thought-provoking yet largely innocuous. Though the topics of homosexuality and abortion rights comes up in many of the chapters, he remains impartial and allows the reader to come to their own judgment of the merits of each religion’s justification for their beliefs.

From Roman Catholic, to the Hutterites, to Mormonism, this short book gives the reader a basic understanding of religious life in Canada in its twelve more prominent forms. Each chapter is concluded with a hefty biography of further reading for the keen reader to explore.

I found that I came away with both a deeper understanding of the religious faultlines in Canada, as well as a stronger appreciation for the loving acceptance of the United Church of Canada. I’m thankful to Betty for the recommendation and encourage everyone to check out the library’s excellent selection available for loan.

Antigonish Youth Group

Saturdays 7:00-9:30pm,
Grades 7-12, St. James Church Hall Fall 2016 Free!
Each night will feature fun, games, activities and food with a Biblical lesson!

Saturday, October 20th • Q& A with special guests

Saturday, November 17th • Baking & Eating

Saturday, December 8th • Christmas Party

Saturday, January 19th • Karaoke with L’arche

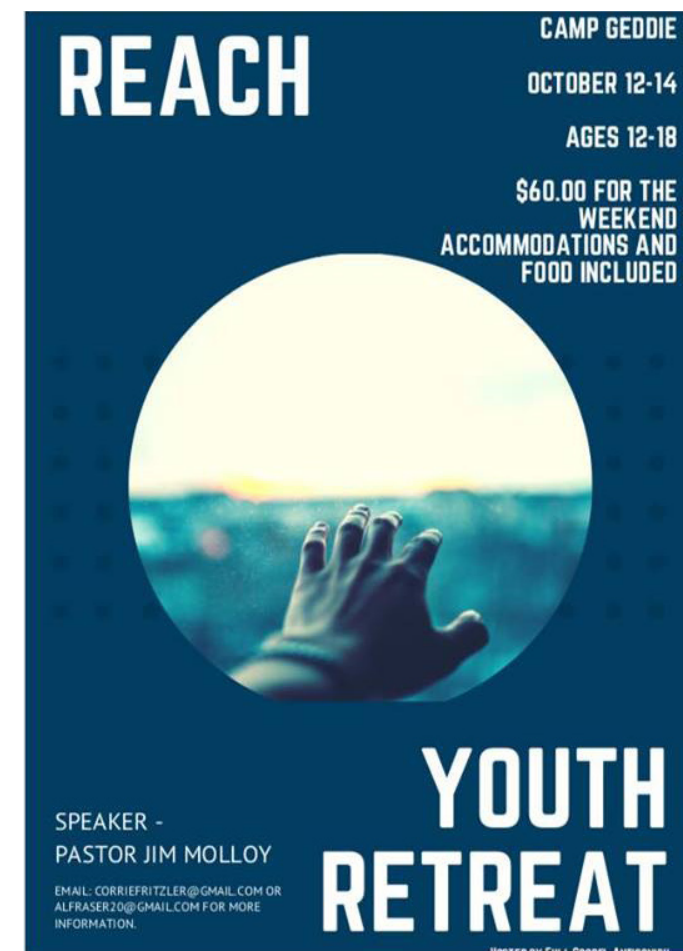
Saturday, February 9th • Movie Night

Saturday, March 9th • Swim & Beach Party

Saturday, April 13th • Mission/International night

Saturday, May 11th • TBA

Saturday, June 15th • Closing Barbeque



St. James Youth Group

The Amazing G-Race was well, Amazing! Thanks for all who helped out to make the night fun and safe!

Based on the feedback from the Youth I created a tentative schedule for the year, we may tweak the events of the evenings but the dates are booked.

Please print the attached schedule out, share it in your Church bulletins, share with your friends. Also attached are photos of the Blue Team and Red Team from Saturday, and a poster from the upcoming Youth Retreat at Camp Geddie . (You can contact Amanda Frazer alfraser20@gmail.com if you are interested in attending that retreat.)

Please let your youth know that they can follow [Antigonish_youth_group](#) on Instagram

See Oct. 20th!

Linda MacDougall Penner



Why Palestine Matters?

I’m sure some of our congregants often ask (with varying degrees of bewilderment) why they hear me going on at different times about Palestine and the situation there. I truly believe that future generations are going to look back at this particular issue in much the same way we look back at South Africa and the apartheid era today, or the disastrous Canadian history of residential schools, and shake their heads wondering just where and how we got it so wrong!

No less an authority than Nelson Mandela, while fully endorsing Israel’s right to exist in peace, stated after becoming South Africa’s President, “We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.” Other major figures and organizations from former US President Jimmy Carter to the beloved South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Kairos organization, the United Nations and our own United Church of Canada have all spoken out strongly about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the colonial oppression Palestinians experience in their day to day lives. A march of 200,000 people took place in Cape Town SA in August 2014 to protest the conditions Palestinians face in Gaza. At that time Tutu called Israel a “bully” and told them to stop oppressing people there. This event gave Palestinians hope at a time when they frequently feel the world has forgotten them and their desperate situation. But things have continued to worsen.

It’s not an easy plight to understand and I know it’s tempting to be led into believing portrayals of all Palestinians as hate mongers and terrorists. But the majority of them are just like you and me. Simple people who want to live their lives – in peace! It’s a matter of basic human rights. For this reason, I am purchasing a new study guide called Why Palestine Matters: the Struggle to End Colonialism, published by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and will donate it to St James’ library. I strongly urge anyone who has questions about this Middle East conflict to read it to gain a better understanding of this complex issue.

- Michèle Ashby

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY



The inaugural meeting of the Seniors Fellowship was held on September 18, 2008 with twenty seniors gathering with an interest in forming this group at St. James. Bob Murray agreed to chair the meetings with Barbara Gardner as a backup. Mary Lou MacKenzie agreed to be treasurer but later passed this job to Marilyn Swim who has recently passed the position to Joyce Hilling. Brenda Bottereil agreed to act as Secretary. It was agreed to hold meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. It was decided that although anyone was welcome to join the group it was recognized that the programs will be designed for individuals 55 years and older. Each participant would be asked to contribute \$1.00 at each meeting. From this money collected over the last ten years, the group has contributed \$890.00 to various charities including the VON, Women's Resource Centre, New Hope Guatemala, CACL, Leonard P D's India project, Cape George Museum and their special project Sleeping Children Around

the World. Over the past ten years we have enjoyed hearing speakers on subjects including health and safety issues for seniors, individuals on their pet projects or charities, individual life stories and screen showings of trips people have taken. They have also journeyed by car pools to several communities in this part of the Province where they enjoyed the scenic drives and many delicious lunches over the past ten years. They have gone bowling and played board games, card games and a brain tester called "Hollywood" when a speaker or

trip wasn't planned. At the meetings at the church, two members provide a lunch with tea or coffee after the program. The first meeting of the year and after the New Year was generally pot luck. On September 19th to celebrate the ten years together, nineteen members of the group gathered at "Love Eat Asia" for lunch. At that time, they paused to remember deceased members of the fellowship. They now have twenty regular members and encourage other seniors in the congregation to join them for fellowship, fun and food.



Welcome to the St James' Family James Eee



We are delighted to celebrate the baptism of James Eee son of Bella Tan and Kent Eee, and youngest brother to Paul and Rachel Eee. Many in the congregation may remember that James was named for our church, in thanksgiving for the support his family received following his dramatic entrance into the world. Though the family is still laden with enormous medical bills, they are determinedly optimistic. Their small business - Authentic Mom's Recipe - is growing in popularity and introducing Antigone's to new flavours every week at the Farmer's Market. Congratulations to the Eee family on this blessed milestone.

Save That Date

Hallelujah, a traditional Christmas concert featuring the St. Ninian's Choir, a children's choir, as well as soloists and ensembles from the community, will be held at St. Ninian's on Friday, December 21st.

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, 28 October

How?

Listen for upcoming details at church ...

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' Hot Lunch Program.

Questions? Suggestions?

Ask GWCTD? Committee Members:

Michèle Ashby (232-3473)
Linda Darwish (735-2856)
Randy Lauff (863-8341)

Better yet, as our numbers are few this year, let us know if you can help out!

Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition’s “Poverty School”

Tuesday, 18 Sept. the APRC held a “Poverty School” at the library. The purpose was to look at current community initiatives to deal with a reduction in poverty. The APRC’s plan is to conduct two of these brainstorming “Schools” targeting groups such as Affordable Housing Antigonish, Kids First, the Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre, the Food Bank, the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund, and our own Social Justice Committee. Four community meetings open to the general public will also be held in Antigonish, Pak’tnekek, Pomquet, and Upper Big Tracadie to gain diverse perspectives on strategies and hopefully some recommendations. A final session will be held in November to present the results.

This first event’s interesting guest speaker was Christine Saulnier, a director with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. I was impressed that someone who has worked with “policy” for ten years could still be so passionate about it! She provided us with the latest Statistics Canada figures (2015) for Antigonish town and county dealing with poverty, specifically broken down by location, gender, ethnicity, and ages of children. It was clear that single parents with children still at home (1 to 5 years of age) are the hardest hit by poverty – a direct correlation to a lack of affordable childcare. As children age and attend school, their parents are less likely to fall into poverty. It is also clear that there is an issue with visible minorities and people with disabilities facing barriers to employment or being employed at lower wages.

There was discussion around the following topics:

- welfare incomes and government incomes (CPP, etc.) have not kept up with the cost of living; after adjusting for inflation people today earn less than at any time since 1977
- the “working poor” are frequently working two or more part-time minimum wage jobs with no

- benefits and little job security, not by choice
- despite common misconceptions, those working part-time are rarely under 20, generally not students, and not living with parents
- the rate of elders, particularly women, living in poverty is on the rise
- we need to decrease barriers to employment and remove the stigma for those who are unemployed – it isn’t a moral failing, it’s systemic
- we need to stop pretending that it’s possible to “live” on minimum wage
- health and social outcomes are significantly worse wherever there is greater disparity between the wages of top and low earners, which is the current trend
- the degree of control we have over our life circumstances (especially stressful ones) is a key influence on health care outcomes – a major expense in both personal and government budgets
- men’s salaries in Antigonish average more than \$10,000.00 above women’s salaries

Discussion around solutions included the need for:

- a living wage
- tackling root causes including but not limited to: institutional racism, gender discrimination and exploitation, safe affordable housing, tax policies, food security, affordable transportation and quality education
- ensuring income security, decent jobs, social inclusion
- enhancing public services by “demarketizing” certain social goods (rent controls, childcare, etc.)

The solutions are always about income, but not only about income. Overall it was a stimulating day with many thought-provoking ideas presented. No easy answers, but hopefully working toward some strategies and recommendations.

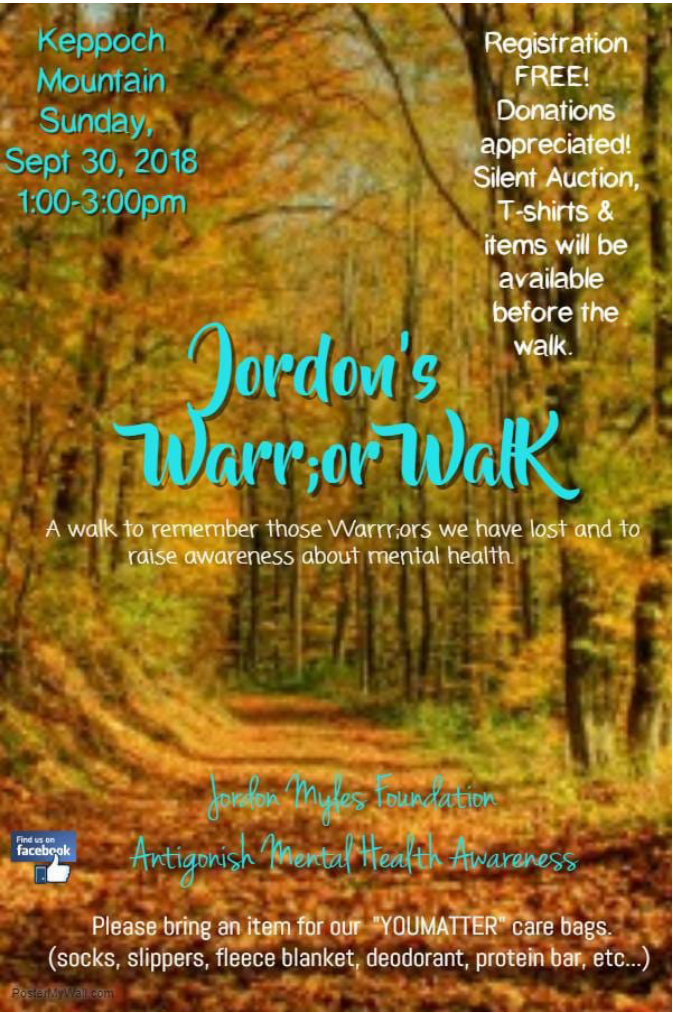
Jordon’s Warrior Walk

After the tragic death of Jordon Myles, his family wanted to begin an initiative that would both honour his memory and create an awareness of mental health issues in our community. Thus began the annual Jordon Myles Warrior Walk, which will be held this year on Sunday Sept. 30th (see poster).

In addition to this, the Jordon Myles foundation also distributes You Matter care bags to young people who are entering hospital for short or long term stays to receive treatment for issues related to mental health.

How can members of the St. James congregation help? Definitely by participating in the walk or by making donations to the Jordon Myles foundation, but also by donating items which can be included in the You Matter bags. What kinds of items? Some possibilities are sudoku puzzles, tissues, shampoo, cream rinse (small bottles please), socks, hard candy, markers, colouring books or pages (suited to a teen-age audience), warm socks, or whatever you think a young person in distress would like to see at what may be the most vulnerable time of his or her life.

If participating in the walk is out of the question, why not bring your donation into church on Sunday and leave it with Brenda Rose (in the choir loft) or



drop it off with the church secretary who will get it over to Brenda.



Demolition of the building next to St. James.

When family & home are not in the same place

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

by Sarah Armstrong



This is a place where family connections are integral to the social fabric. Multiple generations of a family grow up here. True, some leave, but many come back to start their own families. One can trace family trees and their offshoots and branches in the businesses that have been handed down, in the leadership of community groups and in the faces in the pews every week. Family presence is what makes this place home.

I consider Antigonish my home. People I love are a part of my everyday life. When I am in need, I can reach out knowing that I will find the support that I require. I know that in turn, I gladly give of myself to help others in my circle and in my community. But, I don't have family here; no one who knows me through and through and loves me despite – and for – my flaws.

I believe that adversity presents us with opportunity – if we are willing to find it. Two years ago, I sustained a head injury that has since prevented me from working and from leading a fully energized life as I am accustomed. Though it has been a challenging healing journey, my inability to work afforded me the time to travel home to Ontario to spend the summer with my family.

Life's gifts continued, and my mother was able to come out to Antigonish for her second visit in June – taking me and my Leydy dog back to Ontario with her. Even better, however, is that my mom was assigned to work on Manitoulin Island for the summer – where my granpa, my dad, my sister and her family, and a plenitude of other relatives live, and where I planned to spend most of my summer. My brother – who live in North Bay – joined us on Manitoulin, making this summer the first time in our adult lives that my two siblings and I have been together.

My granpa and I are very close, and are strong supports for each other in harder times. Every minute with him is a blessing. My four nephews (ten and under!) are wild, joyful little energy balls. It's hard to sustain relationships with growing children, making this time of memory-making and bonding all the more precious. My dad splits his time between the Island and St Catherine's due to his wife's medical needs resulting from a paralyzing car accident nearly ten years ago. My dad is my confidante and one of my best friends, I was thrilled that he was able to plan two visits while I was home.



There is no comparable joy to being surrounded by family, living by the beautiful lakeshore of the North Channel where the stars fill the night sky and the deer and geese are so tame that they walk about town alongside residents and tourists. It felt shameful to wish for more...but I admit it is hard to be away from my husband, St James' custodian, Chad for



so long. When he suddenly stopped replying to my messages, I worried that I had been interrupting his busy days with too many messages and updates. The hidden truth, however, was that he was offline on his way to surprise me with a visit! How he hid all the planning from me – and how the many people he had recruited to make his plan work had kept the secret safe is incredible!

Coming home from vacation is always hard. Saying goodbye to family is so much harder. The transition is easy, because I brought my younger brother back to Antigonish with me. My mom will come pick him up in mid-October. A happy extension to my summer.



It Takes a Village

SAFE is looking for Volunteer Conversation Partners for our new Syrian-Canadian community members. If you would like to make a friend while helping someone practice conversational English in a friendly and relaxed way, please contact Bronwen Cooke at 867-3617 for more information. No prior experience necessary, just a willingness to have a good chat. Time commitment is flexible.



A Highland Games Tradition



For the third year in a row, the Clan Thompson Pipe Band and Friends staged a delightful afternoon of music and dance at St. James on the first Sunday of Highland Games Week. All the proceeds from the concert went to the St. James Music Bursary Fund. Led by Pipe Major Scott Williams from our own congregation, the band's guests included Emery Van der Wiel on flute, Sheumais MacLeod vocals, Martha Palmer accordion and vocals, members of the St. James Bell Choir, and members of the Grant School of Highland Dance. There were several numbers by members of the pipe band as well, including Scott Williams and Madelyn Evans-Langlois on Scottish small pipes, Cindy Urquhart and her son Rowan Larson-Urquhart on chanter and violin, Brady Webb on Highland pipes, and Luke Henderson on trumpet. Accompanists were Sandra Johnson on organ and Leona Williams on piano. The M.C. for the program was Stellarton Town Crier, Jack Langlois.

Time On Your Hands?

Do you love your little town? Do you like to talk to visitors about its advantages? The great places to visit, shop, eat, attend worship services, or stay?

Do you have two hours a week to volunteer at a job which (a) gives you access to high-speed internet and a printer, and (b) which requires only that you answer people's questions?

If the answer to these questions is yes, why not contact Lynne DeLorey at 902-863-4921? She's looking for several volunteers who would be willing to donate two hours a week chatting with people who drop into the new Antigonish Visitors Information Centre.



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for St. James United Church

BY THE OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

www.stjamesuc.com/connect.htm