



CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Volume 14 • Issue 1 • Winter 2020

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;
and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

John 11:25-26 NIV



Dear Friends in Christ,

The winter has been long and hard. Snow, ice, and storms have been part of our life since well before Christmas and for a while it seemed like there was a storm every weekend. Even when we did have a pause in the cycle of storms, the weather was wet and cold. I'm not sure about you but more than once I simply wanted winter to be over.

Yet I've noticed something as the weather has started to warm and the cycle of weekly storms has stopped. I don't want the winter to simply be over - I want spring to begin. It isn't enough for me to see the snow melting, the ice disappearing, and the days growing longer. Every time I go outside I look for signs that something new is happening- shoots of green growth, birds singing, the sun getting stronger. I need to see the evidence that there is a new season beginning with all the promise and hope found within it.

The story of Holy Week is familiar to us. We know that Jesus spoke about his death and that his walk to the cross is marked by betrayal, rejection, and fear. Yet we also know that Easter is not simply the end of those things but rather the fundamental change which God brings about-forgiveness in answer to betrayal, grace in the face of rejection, and joy which pushes aside fear. For what we celebrate in this season is the miracle of how God not only ends what is wrong but begins a new life for us filled with hope and possibility.

So this time of year let us not simply remember what happened on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday but together let's celebrate the difference Jesus' death and resurrection makes to our lives and to our world.

May God continue to bless us as we journey in faith.

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

Climate Change Actions/ Sustainability



In today's changing landscape, our commitments to sustainability are vital in ensuring the long-term health of our community. Just recently, Council passed a motion to accept the Town's brand-new Municipal Planning Strategy. The strategy is more than just a document, it takes a major leap forward as we look to the future of Antigonish and our emphasis on the importance of supporting sustainable growth. The MPS focuses on three pillars of community sustainability: Social, Fiscal and Environmental. These pillars will drive our work and Council's decision-making as the Town explores a variety of projects and partnerships that will expand our green energy options, promote responsible community development and encourage active and inclusive programs and services.

One of the Town's greenest initiatives is our investment in AREA and ownership of our own electric utility, which has created a number of opportunities for us to reduce our carbon footprint. AREA is an intra-municipal partnership with the Town of Antigonish, Town of Mahone Bay and the Town of Berwick. AREA owns a ten turbine, 23.5 MW windfarm in Ellershouse, Nova Scotia which currently provides 40% of the energy needs for the Town of Antigonish. Through AREA, the Town is also exploring solar energy options and has plans to build a 3-4 MW solar garden with the hope that residents will be able to invest in this program. This project is still in the early exploratory phases.

I have also joined together with my counterparts, Warden Owen McCarron with the Municipality of

the County of Antigonish, Dr. Kevin Wamsley with StFX, and Chief PJ Prosper of Paqtnkek First Nation to establish a Regional Climate Partnership. As a group, our focus is to educate, mitigate and adapt to the changes evoked by climate change. The first project this group has started is to mitigate the risk of flood damage for homeowners in our communities.

Support for local entrepreneurship and small businesses is vital to the sustainability and vibrancy of our community. Town Council was so pleased to contribute \$150,000 to towards the new Antigonish Farmers Market Building. A modern space like this in the heart of Antigonish will create more opportunities for local producers, artisans and independent businesses to operate year-round, while also encouraging more people to shop local and invite visitors into our community to experience our homegrown or homemade products that make our region unique.

The list of sustainable projects goes on from Active Transportation, to the support of Affordable Housing and Antigonish Community Transit. The implementation of these projects gives the Town an opportunity to take on challenges in new and innovative ways that are fundamental in our growth. From forging new business, service delivery and connecting with one another—the Town of Antigonish is seeks to bring innovative solutions to life in order to build a strong and sustainable future for Antigonish and the people who call it home.

Mayor Laurie Boucher

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish believes strongly that collaboration with our neighbours, both other governments and community groups is the best way to share knowledge and build climate resilience in Antigonish. The municipality is an active member of the newly formed group looking at a regional approach to climate change, the inaugural meeting just happened in February and includes Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation, The Town of Antigonish, St. FX University and the County. One of the first joint initiatives we are planning is a session with Dr. Blair Feltmate of the University of Waterloo and Intact Centre on Climate Research (<https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/leadership/staff/>) to development of team approach to increase capacity of community members to make changes and increase resiliency specific to flood mitigation, starting with knowing how to do assessments. The County is also as active member St. FX's President's Environmental Sustainability Committee looking at how best to support initiatives and events in our collective community; developing educational opportunities, joint public and student engagement and sustainability challenges.

Over the past number of years, the County has been working with our friends and colleagues at Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation to see how and where we can work on strengthening our community. We continue to explore economic development options and have recently been awarded support through the Low Carbon Communities Fund to spend 2020 developing a feasibility study and an energy plan. As we move forward with this study a working group will be established with other individuals and community groups from our local community.

The municipality is a founding member of the Antigonish Community Energy Cooperative and was involved with Antigonish Community Energy and exploring options for energy resilience in our community. If you are interested in solar energy or getting more information on the reality of energy in Antigonish both of the ACE groups are great resources www.acecoop.ca. Responsible Energy Action (Antigonish) is another local group who has worked with the County and brought the Blue Dot

Campaign to the table for County Council and have been involved on several occasions for bringing information and action items to our attention. These are all examples of the incredible work happening in Antigonish.

Municipal services are and will be impacted by our changing climate. This is something we are aware of and attempting to plan for. The past two years the County has worked with the AIM network to develop an asset management plan and this will help us prepare responsibly for climate change impacts. We are exploring ways to work more closely with the Climate Services and Research Centre to ensure we have the statistics, projections and research needed to make informed decisions and plans.

The County currently has a 25kWh roof mounted PV solar system installed on the roof of the municipal building at 285 Beech Hill Rd and will be installing an additional 72kWh ground mounted system in 2020. The roof mounted system went live in August 2016 and has produced 79.62MWH, which is the equivalent of having planted 5 acres of trees for a carbon offset of 55 tons. Recognizing the importance of energy efficiency along with renewables the County has just confirmed an Onsite Energy Manager who will bring expertise to support completion of an energy audit and development of an energy efficiency plan. This work will allow us to save energy and money. This is a regional initiative we have partnered with Efficiency One on and are sharing the position over the next two years with Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation, the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, as well as the Municipality of Victoria County, and the Municipality of the County of Inverness. By working regionally and sharing this resource the impact we have on reducing GHG emissions will be greater.

Solid Waste Management is an area everyone can have an impact. It is important for all residents to revisit the recycling, garbage and composting guides for our community. How we dispose of waste and home impacts how the County can process it. For information on municipal waste collection check out our website www.antigonishcounty.ns.ca/garbage-collection/. You can find a sorting guide in

our County Connect www.erswm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ERSWM-Generic8x11.pdf and a great tool developed by Eastern Region Solid Waste Management is the Waste Wizard, which helps you figure out where to put things and reminds you of the pick up schedule. Waste management at home is one of the most direct ways to have an impact on climate change in our community. Less waste equals less energy required to responsibly dispose of it. To ensure household hazard waste does not end up at illegal dump sites the County has recently opened a collection center at our Solid Waste Management site on Beech Hill Rd. This collection site is meant to help things like paint, make-up, chemicals and batteries be disposed of responsibly and divert them from endangering our land and water sources.

We are extremely fortunate to live in an area that is beautiful, pristine, and arable. We live in a community with strong ties to our land and the ocean, with clean water and healthy forests. All things not to be taken for granted; things we need to protect. Shopping local and supporting our fishers and farmers both at our farmers market and local businesses are great ways to make a difference. Our community is full of people and organizations doing their part. In 2017 we worked with the community group Antigonish Climate Resilience to explore Climate resilience in Antigonish. The resulting short film was entitled Listening To Our Neighbors, Exploring the Changing Climate in Antigonish Nova Scotia. This film is beautiful and tells a part of our story, a part of how we are building resilience here at home.

Warden Owen McCarron, District 6



Five years ago a small group of interested people took on the task of refurbishing the two flower beds in the pioneer cemetery behind the church. The beds had been established in 1998 under the direction of Gary Humphreys and did well for many years. Then came a period during which they lacked attention. The beds had become overrun with weeds, and shrubs and a tree were growing in one of them. The town Beautification Committee had been doing so much to bring beauty to the downtown core and we felt something had to be done to make the cemetery look better.

The spring of 2015 was a busy one as the shrubs and tree were removed, weeds pulled, the soil turned over and a plan was designed for us by Pleasant Valley Nursery, free of charge. Encouraged by the result we have continued to make improvements by trimming the shrubs, straightening the fencing, and planting perennials and annuals. It has been trial and error as we determine which flower works in which flower bed, due to different shade patterns from the nearby trees. It is always exciting to see what has survived the winter, and this winter being one with a lot of snow which gives excellent coverage, we are expecting good results, especially from the large number of tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs which were planted last fall. We are grateful for the donations received from the Men's Club and UCW which enables us to buy bulbs and plants each year.

It was brought to our attention that we should consider planting trees as the existing trees are aging and now is the time to start a program of replacement. We are grateful for the donation of six trees from Scott and Stewart Forestry. Four were planted in the fall and the remaining two will be planted in the spring. One of these two linden trees will replace the tree which stood behind the Lion and the Lamb on Main Street and which fell during Hurricane Dorion last fall.

What started with flower beds has expanded to include new trees, tall grasses at the side of the church, and hostas under the highway sign at the corner of Church and Main Street. All is all we are happy with the results and it was nice to hear one of our citizens say that she liked what we have been doing in the cemetery.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our Annual Meeting 100 Years Ago

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. James Church was held in the Church Hall on Wednesday Jan. the 14th, 1920, at half past eight o'clock in the evening. On motion duly passed, Mr. J. H. Stewart was appointed chairman and Mr. W.M. Simpson, secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The Treasurer's report was then read and showed a balance of \$ 208.47 on hand for general expenses and a balance of \$9.99 for schemes of the Church. Over the amount necessary to complete our allotment of \$800.00 for the year. On receiving the report of the Auditors, the treasurer's report was passed. Reports were then received from the following: The Session, the Trustees, Women's Missionary Society, the Ladies Guild, Mission Band, Sunday School, Bible Class. St. James Knitting Circle and Collectors for the Bible Society.

Officers for the year were duly elected as follows:

Treasurer. W. M. Simpson.

Organist, Miss Ethel Joscelyn, at the same salary, namely \$60.00 per year.

Auditors: J.C. McNaughton and C.N. Wilkie

Scrutineers: W.P. Cunningham and F.H. McPhie

Ushers: M.L. Cunningham and R.B. Murray

Plate Collectors: Willie Stewart, Clifford Rogers, Charlie Stewart and Ernest Mc Naughton, appointed for six months.

Trustees: Mr. D.G. Kirk and Mr. M.L. Cunningham the retiring trustees were re-elected.

The Secretary was instructed to notify the plate collectors of their appointment.

On motion it was passed that the financial report for the year be printed, and Dr. Rogers, A.C. Thompson and W.M. Simpson were appointed a committee to have this done.

A report was received from Me, A.S. MacMillan, representing a committee which was appointed in Feb. of last year to secure an estimate of the cost of enlarging the Church Hall to provide for a recreation room and a kitchen. This report showed it would cost \$3000.00 to extend the present building twenty feet, the full height and width, the cost of heating and furniture not included. (The hall was not extended until 1954 with the building of our present hall.)

Dr. Rogers addressed the meeting with regard to the adoption of the new Book of Praise, and on the matter being discussed it was decided to purchase a suitable number of the new books for the church, one or more copies to be placed in each pew. The matter of choosing the books was left in the hands of the session.

The question of building a woodhouse in which to store the surplus supply of wood was discussed and the opinion expressed was that it would not be advisable to disfigure the church grounds by placing another small building on it. Discussion regarding the replacing of the wood furnaces now in use by coal furnaces, ended in no action being taken. During the discussion it was pointed out that the heating was not always satisfactory, and it was recommended that the trustees confer with the janitor, with a view to having this improved. A motion was passed requesting the Ladies Missionary Society to appoint a committee to look after the cleaning of the church and to see that it is properly done.

A motion was made by Mr. F.H. McPhie and passed that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Treasurer for his service during the past year.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

J.H. Stewart. Chairman

W.M. Simpson, Secretary

WHAT IS THE TRUSTEE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

First of all, a trustee is an individual who, along with other members of the trustees and property committee here at St. James United, is entrusted with holding all the property of the congregation for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church.

Our activities are restricted and governed by by the United Church’s Trusts of Model Deed (which is a schedule of the federal and provincial legislation that created the United Church Of Canada) and this not only refers to the real property of land and buildings but also the personal property. Personal property of the congregation includes money, investments, furniture, and equipment.

The trustees are also restricted and governed by our church’s council and other courts of the United Church.

The property, both real, such as buildings and land, and personal, such as furnishings, equipment, and investments of each congregation, is not owned by either the congregation or the United Church. This is because ownership here is not looked at as being able to do what we want with the property. It is more like a right which different parties in the church hold.

Trustees hold property for the benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. This is for such religious, congregational, or social purposes as the congregation may direct, as for the support and maintenance of Christian knowledge according to the policy of The United Church. So although the trustees hold the congregational property we must follow the directions of our church council and the region.

All United Church congregations are required to have a trustees committee, which must have at least 3 members and up to 15. Our committee here at St. James has nine members.

When choosing members for trustees and property it is important to keep in mind skills needed in the areas of which the trustees and property is

held responsible. There is no fixed term as to how long they are to serve. However it is good to have some turnover from time to time to ensure some continuity and avoid large turnovers. The policy of trustee serving for life is discouraged and not recommended.

Our trustees and property committee here at St. James oversees repairs and maintenance which in other congregations is carried out by a separate committee, such as a committee of stewards. There is money budgeted for repairs and maintenance provided in the yearly church budget for this. Anything above the normal repairs and maintenance, such as alterations to the church buildings or purchase of new equipment, needs the approval of the church council before they can proceed.

If it is a major renovation that requires a large amount of money to complete it has to be brought before a congregational meeting in order to get permission to spend the funds needed. Depending on how high the amount needed for the renovations, the request may then have to be taken to region 15 for approval before proceeding.

We at St. James United are very fortunate to have trustees who bring their experience and knowledge in order to help our congregation achieve its function within the United Church of Canada and our local community.





"You Matter Bags"

The Jordon Myles Foundation creates "You Matter" care bags to be given to anyone admitted to the Mental Health & Addictions unit at St. Martha's. These kits are filled with basic care items to provide comfort, love, & support. We want people to know that even in their darkest moments, they are loved, cared for and that they MATTER!!

We are always looking for donations of supplies of the following items:

- Fleece Blankets, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Lip Balm, Socks, Water, Granola/Protein Bars, Deodrant, Comb/Brush, Body Lotion, Gently Used Reading Books/Comics, Mini Shampoos/Conditioners, Soap, Hard Candies, and Markers/Pencil Crayons for adult coloring.

Sincerely,
The Jordon Myles Foundations



Why Do We Read

- We read to know we are not alone.
—C.S. Lewis

Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend.
Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.
—Groucho Marx

It is what you read when you don’t have to that determines what you will be when you can’t help it.
– Oscar Wilde

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.
– Dr. Seuss
- A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author.
– Gilbert K. Chesterton

A book is a version of the world.
If you do not like it, ignore it or offer your own version in return.
– Salman Rushdie

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.
– Confucius

New Understanding of Indigenous History Inspires MHCC Staff

As twenty Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) staff members seated themselves in a circle in a small, windowless room, a sense of trepidation was in the air. While some had experience working with Indigenous communities, others were only faintly familiar with what it entailed. But everyone had heard that the KAIROS Blanket Exercise could be emotionally difficult.

Fortunately, the unease was quickly dispelled by Elder Reta Gordon and facilitator Julie Vachon.

“We’re here,” Vachon said, “not to place shame or guilt. We are here to lift the veil of denial and shed light on truth.”

The blanket exercise is as visceral as it is visual. Blankets are spread out on the floor to represent a map of North America. Participants take off their shoes before taking a place on the blankets — each representing a territory of the estimated 20 million Indigenous people who occupied this land before European contact. As land is taken, as disease spreads, as government policies targeted at assimilation gain momentum, participants are forced off their blankets and return to their seats — until what remains is a shadow of the once thriving civilization, diverse in language, culture, and customs.

The feeling of history echoing through the centuries was almost palpable. The exercise works so well because participants are more than attendees — they are both audience and storytellers. They become living embodiments of the traumatic past: the dead of the Métis uprising; Indigenous people who succumbed to starvation; children taken from their homes to endure residential schools or caught up in the 60s scoop; and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The most profound moment of the day came when Vachon asked participants to observe a moment of silence for those who endured these adversities. “Take a moment to sit in discomfort,” she said. “Move away from the habit of disconnecting from uncomfortable feelings.”

From that discomfort emerged a more positive

discourse: the contemplation of those who survived unthinkable adversity — who sustained intergenerational trauma and experienced state-sanctioned racism — only to rise on the other side as living examples of strength, resiliency, and compassion, having reclaimed cultures and kinships against all odds.

“I realize I have only just begun to skim the surface of others’ experiences,” said Julia Armstrong, a program manager with the MHCC’s prevention and promotion team, one of many participants who expressed frustration at having been taught so little about Indigenous history.

She sees this new learning as a responsibility. “I’ve been given this gift of working for an organization that prioritizes reconciliation so staff can grow and learn as individuals. I want to pay that forward and share the wisdom I’ve gained with my circle of family, friends, and colleagues.”

And that is precisely the kind of change the facilitators hope to effect.

“People ask, ‘What can we do?’ They say, ‘Now that we know better, how can we do better?’” said Gordon. “To them I say this,” Vachon answered, “Don’t go out and do grand gestures — those feed the ego. Go out and do small acts. Talk to others. If each of you reached out and shared this new knowledge with one more person, and that person in turn did the same, think of what we could accomplish. We would chip away at the misunderstandings and the damaging stereotypes, leading us to a place free from judgment where compassion can flourish.”

“The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is one piece of cultural competency I encourage everyone to experience,” said Louise Bradley, MHCC president and CEO. “As individuals, we have a responsibility to deepen our understanding of history and make meaningful steps in our personal journeys of reconciliation. As an organization, we are fortunate to be able to foster that growth in our staff. I have no doubt it will inform our work in many ways, big and small.”

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INDIGE-CURIOUS?



Indigenous issues have been in the news a lot lately in Canada. Ever find yourself wondering what it’s all about? Why are folks across our country standing in support of the Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs? What’s the difference between hereditary chiefs and those that are elected? Why are we seeing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission’s “Calls to Action” in our church bulletin every week? What’s with all these “land acknowledgements” anyway? What’s “MMIWG”? As Canadians and therefore “treaty keepers”, we have an obligation to stay informed about what’s happening both here in Mi’kmaq (the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq) and across Canada.

We’ll return to this topic in the next edition of Connections, but here are a few resources to get you started if you’re curious:

Books to Read: 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act by Bob Joseph; The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King; First Peoples in Canada by Alan D. McMillan & Eldon Yellowhorn; Price Paid by Bev Sellars; Our Story by assorted authors; The Mi’kmaq Anthology by Lesley Choyce and Rita Joe; The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson; Tammarniit (Mistakes) Inuit Relocations by Frank & Kulchystk Tester; any books by Richard Wagamese or Tomson Highway. Items to Watch On Line: www.standcanada.org/truth-reconciliation-commission-report-summary/ unistoten.camp/ dewc.ca/resources/redwomenrising novascotia.ca/treaty-education/ www.cbc.ca/firsthand/m_blog/8th-fire-wabs-walk-through-history

Keep an open mind and enjoy your research!

“Starting now, we all have an opportunity to show leadership, courage, and conviction in helping heal the wounds of the past as we make a path towards a more just, more fair, and more loving country. This is our beginning: begin that journey of healing.”

- Justice Murray Sinclair (Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)

A MOTHER’S ANSWER TO PRAYER AND EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Some of you will recall an appeal for funds that I made on behalf of Cecilia Ockling of Ghana (Coady 2011) about a year and a half ago. The appeal was to support her son’s acute need for a kidney transplant. After months of fervent prayer and a mother’s persistence with the Ghana government, the family finally received the funds needed for the surgery and associated expenses from the Ghanaian Ministry of Health. I am very happy to report that Anderson (35) underwent the surgery on March 2, 2020, in Cuba. The doctors report that the surgery went “exceptionally well”, and Anderson and the donor (his cousin) are making a quick recovery.

Cecilia is very grateful to God and to all who supported her in prayer and with their finances during this difficult journey. She wishes you to know that the funds raised at St. James were a tremendous help to her and Anderson during the nearly two years of dialysis treatments and the many blood tests undertaken in Ghana.

One postscript is that a likely reason for the excellent results was that the medical team in Cuba delayed the surgery by a couple of weeks on account of complications that required the acquisition and administration of some crucial but very expensive drugs. As this is ongoing, Cecilia is again appealing to the Ghana government and to anyone willing to help for assistance. Prayer is also appreciated.

Submitted by Linda Darwish

FUN & FINANCE
(two words you never thought you'd see together)

Five times a year at 4 p.m. the Finance and Stewardship team get together in the Meeting Room for an hour to have an opportunity to see how St James is progressing financially. We are a group of six or seven who help steer our church by building a budget, looking after the offering, and paying the bills. We keep our door open to other church groups as we are all connected through our spending.

Each Sunday a team of three meet after the service to deposit the collection into the bank. PAR applications and Sunday envelopes are our responsibility as well. Two of our group sit on Council while the rest help with the team.

Since we are all pretty much in the same age range we are at the stage where it is always a challenge to remember everyone's names as we pass out the annual envelopes or tax receipts.

Finance and Stewardship also coordinates the yearly Frolic that is held in June. Mission and Service is also under our umbrella and we like to share our knowledge of this through our Minute for Mission.

We may be a small group but with our great co-chairs and guidance from Rev. Peter we manage to get a lot done in a short time. However--- we always welcome anyone who would like to join us as more hands make even lighter work. Yes I saw you shake your head and say I know nothing about finance, I cannot add and I could not possibly be a help. None of us on the team did either when we started. Everyone has their own strengths and we support each other and because of that it works. Why not give it some thought. Oh yes, one final bonus is that you will never be asked to bake for this group!

P. Cunningham



Setting Sails for 2020!
Outreach & Communication

Outreach and Communication has recently met to set some new goals. One is the upcoming Info Fair that is now slated for October 4th after our regular morning service. We hope all committee chairs and the community at large will hold onto this date as another opportunity to highlight the life at St. James.

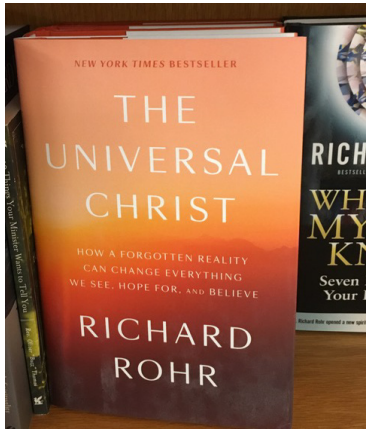
Once again we'd like the wider Antigonish community to know that we have many things to offer that go above and beyond our Sunday worship. With this in mind we are asking groups to begin to assemble pictures and other aids to showcase what goes on within the church. It will be a fun time to float around and see what is being offered.

As well, we'd like to encourage groups wherever possible to advertise through the bulletin and also to use a table in the church hall to promote their current activities. The hall is the hub of the church after services, so it is an ideal time to invite new membership, to promote an outing, or to invite response to a subject or issue. If you speak to Chad ahead of time, he could set up table for your use.

From the Church Library . . .

by Fran Wittgens

Something that had always puzzled me was time. How could an all embracing God only arrive in the flesh at the birth of the historical Jesus? Richard Rohr tackles this and more in his latest book, Universal Christ. We are linked back to the very first, and all creation has the Christ in us. This is an exciting book, and I'm thinking I might launch a Book Club on spiritual questions. Please speak to me if you are interested! Starting in the fall, possibly.



CHURCH LIBRARY

by Hope Graham



Stop. Look. Anonymous. Well almost, except now it will seem like you're reading my diary as I list some of my more memorable and/or recent readings. Since the librarian(s) have kindly categorized the books with initials [a St. James original, perhaps?], I've included the respective categories of my choices, in case you want to find one of my choices.

Bible Aids (BA):

God's Story Revealed: A guide for understanding the Old Testament

In the Beginning: A new interpretation of Genesis

Bibliography (PW)

Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan holocaust

Kwabena: An African boy's journey of faith

[Ghanian with an Acadian University connection]

End of the Spear [a missionary kid's biography that includes his perspective on the death of his father's martyrdom in Ecuador]

Kisses from Katie: Relentless love and redemption [Kenya]

Father of Thousand Orphans [an epic story spanning Poland, Afghanistan, India, Antigonish]

The Year of Living Biblically: One man's quest to follow the Bible as literally as possible [religious?? comedy]

Reflections on Faith (RF)

Early Christian Writings

Professors who Believe: Spiritual stories of Christian faculty

Social Issues (SO)

The Heart of Racial Justice: How soul change leads to social change

Living More with Less: A Pattern for living with less and a wealth of practical suggestions...
Neither Poverty Nor Riches: A biblical theology of material possessions

Novels

At Home in Mitford

The Red Tent (historical fiction of Bible characters, Jacob and daughter, Dinah)

A.D. 33 (historical fiction)

Kirinyaga: A fable of Utopia for one more day

The Secret Life of Bees

Spiritual Growth (SG)

Becoming Human

Church (CH)

Cross cultural Servanthood: Serving the world in Christlike humility

There are library sections awaiting yet for me: Children, Death and Dying (DD), Family (FA), Life of Jesus (LJ), Worship and Devotions (W).

St. James United church library is an extraordinary repository. From personal experience, this library is an irreplaceable supplement to the uncharacteristically sparse "religion" section of our beloved Pictou Antigonish Region Library. What an opportunity to grow in mind and spirit and consider anew God's love and how to walk in His Way!



MINISTERIAL TRIVIA

So, you think you know Rev Peter Smith? See how well you do on this little trivia quiz! Warning: there may be a few tricks in here, and/or multiple correct answers.

- 1) Rev Peter was born in what year?
a. 1965 b. 1968 c. 1971
- 2) He is originally from what community?
a. Fairvale NB b. Rothesay NB c. Yarmouth NS
- 3) He and Rev Meredith were married in:
a. 1993 b. 1995 c. 1998
- 4) Rev Peter and Rev Meredith met at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax when they were going to:
a. an ethics class b. a choral practice
c. a welcome BBQ
- 5) Rev Peter had an assortment of jobs prior to taking the plunge into ministry. Which of these are true: a. supply teacher b. house painter
c. staff at a camp for underprivileged children
- 6) Favourite dessert is: a. jello b. rice pudding
c. ice cream
- 7) Rev Peter enjoys listening to what kinds of music? a. classical b. folk c. rock 'n roll
- 8) He prefers reading what kind of books?
a. autobiographies b. fantasy and science fiction
c. romance
- 9) Many of us know he is a published author and his writing is included in several co-authored books and anthologies. How many books has our minister penned entirely on his own?
a. 7 b. 10 c. 4
- 10) Rev Peter dabbles (his word!) at playing multiple musical instruments. Which ones?
a. bugle b. tuba c. flute
- 11) Rev Peter's favourite colour is:
a. green b. orange c. "Blue. No! Yellow."
- 12) Many of us are aware that Rev Peter walks. A lot! How far did he walk in 2019? a. just under 1,000 miles b. more than 1000 miles c. more than 1,500 miles
- 13) Most of us know that Rev Peter's mother was a minister. What did his father do? a. worked in computer technology b. dance instructor
c. dentist

Bonus marks for recognizing where the quote in answer 11 is from ...

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING EVENT MAY BE RESCHEDULED DUE TO THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Hold the Date! The Maritime UCW Biennial Meeting will be held from April 24 - 26 at St Paul's United Church in Riverview NB. This is always a wonderful opportunity to get together with other UCW members from around the Maritimes, to network and get "recharged".

The theme for the gathering is
"Colouring Outside the Lines".

Do you want more information about what it's all about? Speak to our Chair - Christine Briand.

Volunteers - Taken from "Volunteers - Our Greatest National Resource" 1996.

"Volunteers have the tenacity of a mountain goat, the gentleness of lambs, the strength of oxen, the speed of impalas, the dependability of work horses and the eagerness of new puppies. If we're comparing them to animals, we must also note they are a breed apart."

from Monty Python and the Holy Grail.
c: 12) b: 13) a: Bonus ? "Blue. No! Yellow." is a quote
eclectic tastes; 8) b: 9) c: 10) both a and c are correct; 11)
minister is allergic to milk protein; 7) all three, he has very
due to an amalgamation; 3) b: 4) c: 5) all three; 6) a, our
1) b: 2) both a and b are correct - the name was changed

How did you do?
Ministerial Trivia Answers:



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for St. James United Church
BY THE OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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