

St. James United Church Annual Report



On the life of the congregation in 2020

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“You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off
do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”
Isaiah 41:9b-10

January 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year has been a year unlike any other that we have seen as a church. Our whole life together was turned upside down in March with the arrival of Covid 19. Our groups, committees, and outreach efforts paused when we closed the building and our worship life shifted to an online format for the first time in our congregation's history. I can remember wondering at the time what would happen to us as we made our way through such a difficult and chaotic time.

The reports from the committees and groups outline what took place in this unique year by describing what was done and what had to be left undone during 2020. Yet the truth is that as well as recording those things each report is also a witness to how we continued to live and work in faith and how God was with us to show the new things that lay before us at St. James. For we discovered new ways to worship, we connected and reconnected using familiar ways and unexpected ways, and we continued to experience the truth that God is with us as we lived and served as a church of Jesus Christ. Looking back I think that the past year shows that our faith and trust in God will allow us to continue to shine and be a witness to the gospel no matter what happens in our world.

My hope and prayer is that in the next year things will be a bit more normal and that God will give us the wisdom to know what and how to restart the old things and keep the best of the new things we are doing. May God continue to be with us as we journey together in faith.

Yours In Christ's Service,

The Rev. Peter A. Smith

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

Mike Cook called the meeting to order at 12:12. Mike Cook chaired and was secretary. Rev. Peter Smith led the opening prayer.

Opening Motions:

- Motion to grant non-members voting privileges M/S Robert Murray/Sarah Armstrong.
- Adoption of agenda. M/S Judi MacPherson/Paul van de Weil.

The 2019 Congregational Meeting minutes

Motion to accept Minutes as circulated. M/S Liz Millett/Doug Hunter. Motion carried.

Business arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere.

There was some discussion on spending for various projects including the steeple.

Annual Reports

Motion to accept Reports. M/S Rev. Doug Stewart/Betty Webber

Minister's Letter

Worship Committee Ministry of Music Report Hand Bells

Ministry and Personnel

Congregational Life and Hospitality Seniors' Fellowship

Membership and Pastoral Care

Finance and Stewardship

Trustees and Property

Christian Faith and Development

Outreach and Communication

Social Justice Committee, Hot Meal, Community Christmas Dinner

Region 15 Report

United Church Women, U.C.W. Treasurer's Report, Prayer Shawl Group

Men's Club, Men's Club Treasurer's Report

St. James Gardeners Report

Northern Nova Scotia Foundation

Vote on Motion. Motion carried.

Financial Statements and Budget (p.21,22,23)

There was some discussion as to the recommendation from the Council with regards to increasing staff wages gradually to meeting the goal of an identified living wage.

Moved by Liz Millett seconded by Shaun Scott that the Congregation increase the wages of the staff (Secretary, Custodian, Christian Education Director) for this coming year with the eventual goal of reaching the identified living wage. Motion Carried

Motion to accept financial statements for 2019 M/S Paul van de Weil/Shawn Scott Motion carried.

Motion to adopt the 2020 Budget M/S Pamela Cunningham/Michele Ashby Motion carried.

Motion to set 2020 Mission and Service goal at \$25,000 Pamela Cunningham/Joyce Hilling Motion carried.

Nominations

Motion to accept recommendations as submitted. M/S Betty Webber/Robert Smith Motion carried.

Mike Cook closed the meeting at 1:05 pm Closing Prayer was led by Rev. Peter

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn “Evie” Mae Grew

Wayne Francis Austen

Olive Hughena Snow

Alexander Ralph Baxter

Francis “Frank” Xavier MacDonald

Evelyn Marie Pottie

Annie “Frances” Eadie

Paul Gregory Kelly

Adelaide Etta Adams

Norman Roderick “Roddy” Adams

Downey Norman Kirk

Irene Isobel MacLeod

Dan MacAskill

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This past year has been unprecedented in our church lives. Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, all church activities and services had to change.

As of March 17, 2020 all in-person services were cancelled. All activities that had been planned were also cancelled. Many meetings were held to discuss how we would cope with the changes. The provincial and church guidelines eventually came out to help us decide what to do to facilitate reopening in some form.

We decided to start with on-line services on March 21, 2020. We are lucky to have several people that had the skills to get us up and running. Between Rev. Peter, Kenji Omae, Heejung Choi and Chad Brazier we were able to start taping our services and made the available on-line through our website, Facebook and YouTube. Our first venture into the virtual world from that first Sunday was well received and successful. A large number of the parishioners watched each week and we even garnered people from far away.

We were eventually told that we could resume in-person services. We were given much guidance from the church and province as to how to proceed. Between Chad Brazier and Rev Peter, the church sanctuary was laid out so that a limited number of people could successfully attend the service. Our first in person service after the closure was on September 6, 2020 with a small congregation.. We also kept on with our taped service and that continues to be very popular. Weddings, baptisms and funerals were arranged as the new rules allowed. The worship committee is meeting via Zoom and we continue to oversee the use of the sanctuary.

Submitted by Christine Morrison,
chair of Worship committee

MINISTRY OF MUSIC REPORT

It has been a very unusual year for our musical family here at St James. It started as always with wonderful soloists and choir anthems but soon changed drastically due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic arriving in March and our in person church was closed indefinitely. Music came to an abrupt stop.

Eventually church services went online and we came up with ways to incorporate music into the weekly service. Many soloists stepped forward to sing and play instruments. Because choir was not allowed to meet, that had to be disbanded. We came up with a way though to sing together. We decided to make a “virtual“ choir Christmas anthems video. Each member was taped individually and with the expertise of Kenji Omae and Heejung Choi, we became a choir again, albeit online.

In-person services resumed in the fall and soloists again were welcomed to sing and play. Still no choir but hopefully soon we’ll be able to return.

Many thanks to all who are coming up with these inventive ways to carry on.

Submitted by Christine Morrison,
Choir Director

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members of the Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee are: Bronwen Cooke, Tim Hinds, Doug Hunter, Liz Millett (Chair), and Gina Sampson. Diane Theurkauf resigned from the committee this year and has not yet been replaced. Thanks to Diane for her work on this Committee over the past few years. The M&P Committee met several times during 2020, all by videoconference. With the church shutdown in the spring as a result of Covid-19, we continued to be in regular contact with all staff to discuss concerns or issues they may be experiencing as a result of the shutdown and then the reopening, as well as to discuss any Covid concerns they may have had.

In June, we regretfully received a resignation from Claire MacDonell, Christian Education Coordinator. I am pleased to announce that May MacKenzie, who was filling the role on a temporary basis, was hired into the role in September on a permanent basis.

Patsy Farrell, church secretary, has been absent on sick leave since mid December. In her absence, and until she returns, the hours of the church office have been reduced to two mornings per week and it is staffed with volunteers.

Probationary reviews were conducted as outlined in the staff job descriptions. Additionally, we met virtually or by telephone with each staff member at the end of the year and provided a summary review letter in follow up.

You may recall from last year's annual meeting that our committee proposed a motion, which was approved by Council and affirmed by the Congregation, that St. James Church sets a goal to increase staff hourly wage to the living wage target set for the Antigonish area. The living wage for the Antigonish area (the hourly wage required to provide for family and live a somewhat comfortable life) at that time was \$17.75/hr (Saulnier, 2018). The plan considered a gradual implementation, over a period of five years, as finances permit. Last year, the Congregation affirmed the increase for year one of the plan. M&P has proposed a motion this year that year 2 increases be approved.

A Funeral Committee was established in the fall to assist at indoor funerals during Covid-19. One funeral and the Christmas Eve service provided good opportunities to test the plan and make changes for improvement.

Unfortunately, Rev. Peter's planned sabbatical leave this past summer did not materialize as a result of the pandemic. I expect that he will develop a new plan sometime in the future. We, at St. James have been blessed to have the leadership of Rev. Peter Smith during this pandemic. It has not been an easy year. He has worked long hours in a high stress environment with ever-changing guidelines and rules in order to continue to minister to the people of St. James (and beyond) and to keep us safe. On behalf of M&P, and the Congregation, I extend sincere thanks and much gratitude to Rev Peter for his efforts and his commitment during these difficult and unusual months.

We are blessed to have very capable and dedicated employees and we truly value their work and their contribution to our church community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Millett

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND HOSPITALITY

The restrictions because of Covid 19 caused many of the usual activities and plans to be cancelled. Coffee Hour after church was suspended but hopefully will resume when conditions allow. The Committee met for a short meeting on the porch of Betty Webber's house in the summer and had prepared baskets for shut ins during this time. The baskets were well received and appreciated. Members have been sending cards and making phone calls to keep folks connected.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Webber

SENIOR'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Seniors Fellowship met on January 15, 2020 with 8 members present to enjoy a potluck lunch. There was no special speaker for this meeting, so time was spent discussing programs for future meetings. Joyce Hilling reported that with the two bed kits we purchased for Sleeping Children Around the World in September, we have now purchased 14 bed kits over the past few years. Twelve members of the Seniors Group met in the meeting room on February 19, 2020 and were given a talk on the Earth Angels Home Care by Catherine MacRae, Client Care Manager. They provide personalized care service covering areas from Elmsdale to Antigonish. She gave a power point presentation explaining and understanding Dementias and Alzheimers. That was the last meeting in 2020 with all meetings and gatherings cancelled in March because of Covid 19.

Respectively Submitted
Robert Muray Co-Chair

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

For 2020 the following were presented and accepted for baptism:

Hunter Dean Henley Child of Caitlyn Stewart Lloyd Henley
Zoe Ainslie Scott child of Jody Richardson and Michael Scott
Noah Eason Scott child of Jennifer Cataldo and Adam Scott

For 2020 the following were presented and accepted for marriage:

Adam Thomas Partridge and *Vicky Louise Heywood*

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Morrison, Chair

CHRISTIAN FAITH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This year has seen many changes in the ways we conducted Children's Worship. When the sanctuary was closed we shifted to an online format. Each week there was a story and crafts for the children available on our Youtube channel. Thanks to Bronwen Cooke, May Mackenzie, Linda Penner, and Christine Briand for helping with the activities which were posted each week. Thanks as well to Chad Brazier for recording the children's stories. In September, we resumed in person Children's worship under the direction of May MacKenzie with a small but faithful group of children. Thanks to the teachers and helpers provided an opportunity for our young people to grow in faith during this unusual year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Peter Smith

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The mandate of the Finance and Stewardship committee is to provide oversight of the financial affairs of the congregation and to cultivate the concept of stewardship.

The year 2020 was a unique and challenging year for all Church committees including Finance and Stewardship. We were in uncharted waters navigating issues and challenges related to Covid 19 that we have not confronted in the past.

During 2020 we were able to meet as a committee on 5 occasions, including the months of January, March, June (by zoom), October and November. We presented a report at each Church Council meeting outlining the committee activities. Following each service, committee members counted and deposited the weekly collection.

The un-reviewed financial results for 2020 indicate we will end up with a surplus. We were the beneficiaries of a very strong response from our congregation to the Fall Appeal Campaign, some generous December donations and the Government of Canada wage subsidy program. Along with our weekly offerings, all helped erase the fall deficit. We were delighted to see at the end of the day our 2020 offerings were up 6% compared with 2019.

At year's end, the number of participants in PAR stood at 88, up three from 2019.

The Pre-Authorized Receipts (PAR) system provides a predictable, easily accounted for and uninterrupted source of revenue. Our Treasurer, Pamela continues to encourage members to adopt the PAR system at every opportunity. We encourage all envelope contributors to consider this option for 2021. Also, we wish to remind members that electronic donations to St. James are possible through Canada Helps. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/> For assistance please contact the church office or Pamela, our Treasurer.

We are also pleased to report that 84% of our \$25,000 budgeted goal for Mission and Service was achieved. Total donations to Mission and Service were \$20,534. Contributions to the Building Fund were \$4843 for 2020. This compares to \$ 5857 for 2019. Contributions to the Building Fund and expenditures from the Building Fund are not budgeted on an annual basis.

It was a disappointment that Covid 19 prevented our committee from coordinating the Stump Frolic in June, hopefully we will be able to in 2021. A very successful Fall Appeal Campaign was carried out in November.

The 2021 budget was reviewed with the Treasurer prior to its presentation to council in early January. Our committee is concerned about the unknowns related to the pandemic. To meet our expected 2021 expenses, our budgeted revenues will require an increase of approximately 7% or approx. \$15,000 over last years offerings. We expect 2021 to once again be a very challenging year, both on achieving revenue targets and controlling expenses.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee thanks all the members of the congregation for their support. We would like to thank the committee members and especially, our Treasurer, Pam Cunningham for their tireless work in ensuring sufficient financial resources are on hand to fulfill St. James' charitable

mandate and in administering the financial affairs of our Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Scott and Paul van de Wiel
Co-chairs – Finance & Stewardship

Committee Members: Judi MacPherson Isabel Tate Pamela Cunningham - Church Treasurer
Rev. Peter Smith Joanne Clifton Robert Smith

TRUSTEES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As we all are aware covid-19 made the year 2020 like no other and had a profound effect on St. James in regard to how it could function as a church.

The restrictions put in place because of covid 19 put a limit on the number of persons allowed to worship in person for church weekly services in the sanctuary.

Also we were unable to hold the usual fundraisers such as the stump frolic.

All most all use of the hall and meeting rooms have been curtailed along with the use of the kitchen.

This has reduced not only the congregation's ability to raise funds but more importantly its outreach service to the community through such functions as the hot meal program and as a place for different groups to meet. St. James was forced to restructure much of how it does things as a congregation to be here for our church members and all people in our community and beyond.

We are so fortunate to have Rev. Peter Smith as our minister. He has dedicated so much of his time to seeing that St. James reopened after the complete closure to a place where we were able to reopen under the government guidelines. Through his leadership St. James United has not only managed to cope, it has found new ways to connect and serve.

The online worship services have been a real benefit to St. James. We want to say thank you to Kenji Omae for his assistance in this area.

Needless to say various projects in relation to building repair and upkeep have not been able to take place because of the restrictions in place. However Chad has done very good work with various touch ups in and out side and has seen that proper disinfecting and spacing regulations have been followed.

The garden club also deserves special mention for their work. Thanks also to Shaun Scott for his donation of the new trees which were planted.

We want to thank all those in the congregation who in various ways have helped in these difficult times. Patsy Farrell has been off work due to sickness and we all look forward to her return to work as church secretary. Her assistance has been truly missed. Thank you to those who have helped fill in for her in her absence.

We look forward to 2021 and know through experience that St. James will continue to be a very welcoming and important place not only for the congregation but the larger community as well.

I want to finally thank the other committee members of trustees & property for being there and although we did not meet this past year, you have all been of great assistance to the church in various ways during 2020.

Respectively submitted by,
John Whidden(chair of trustees and property)

Committee Members: Dale Archibald, Mike Cook, Bob Day, Allan Farrell, Carol MacIntosh, Andrew Murray, Rev. Peter Smith

ST. JAMES GARDENERS

We of the St. James church gardeners have had a quiet season, but our beautiful church yard still shone. The planting of annual flowers and maintenance of beds had to be done with social distancing with the wearing of masks during the international pandemic. The plants also had to contend with low moisture levels from rainfall and a non watering direction from the town's reservoir.

The grounds received the plantings of two perennials of Heath placed in front of our Scottish first ministers Rev. J. Munroe and Rev. T. Trotter as a reminder of the wild Heaths from their ancestral home. A Winged Burning Bush shrub was also placed. We bet you can guess where we got that idea from. The funds for all these plants came from our ever supportive Men's Club. Thank you. Crocuses were also graciously donated by Betty Webber. Scott & Stewart Forestry c/o Shaun Scott donated 2 Maple, 2 Red Oak, 2 Linden trees. They will grow to provide umbrellas for our early pioneer graves and those who come to visit.

We are ever so grateful to Chad Brazier for his daily care of the church yard. Greetings from Marlene and Gerrit Groenenberg, Liz Millett and Mike Cook, Andrew Murray, Diane Theuerkauf.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Outreach and Communication has had a sharper focus as a result of the health and safety measures from Covid 19. The life at St. James was altered but it was still essential, perhaps even more so, to keep connected. Efforts began in the summer to try to reach out to people who were unable to take advantage of any of the online delivery of services, newsletter or coffee time. We found volunteers to deliver the summer edition of the newsletter Connections. There was also concern about those who didn't even know that services had resumed because they were out of the loop.

As a result, the O and C group called various members of the congregation asking if they would be ok to receive alerts when changes were happening at St James. We also spoke with service groups at the church. They had email/contact lists and agreed to forward any necessary information about alerts. This was completed by the end of October, ready in case we needed it for Advent or Christmas. As it stands, it wasn't necessary for those weeks. Still it is a tool even without a global pandemic to be able to get important information out when necessary.

The group also wanted regular reminders in the bulletins to encourage individuals to check in on those who they haven't seen in awhile. Outreach welcomes more ideas on how to proceed into the winter and spring as this stretch of isolation continues. The Connections newsletter continued to be published, celebrating events and sharing stories. Thanks go to Brenda Rose and Ruth Young for their skilled and loyal efforts.

Cultural Connections Antigonish has had to rely only on its Facebook page as the popular potlucks are delayed til after the pandemic is over. The group wrestles with ways to reach out. The FB page is a way for us to offer encouraging and welcoming words to students as well as new and old residents to share their stories. Recently some focused on favourite Christmas Eve foods. All St. James can find a place on this page, offering winter fun ideas, crafts or outings. We'd love a larger St. James footprint in this dynamic effort.

Thanks to committee members who came together uncomplainingly via Zoom to get things done. Outreach and Communication Committee: Linda Darwish, Barbara DeMarsh, Joan MacGillivray, Glenna Quinn, Brenda Rose, Rev. Peter Smith, Fran Wittgens

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Like most of the church's organizations, the Social Justice Committee found it challenging this year to continue its regular activities. We had to discontinue our Adopt-A-Highway clean ups and the Minutes for Social Justice from the pulpit. There was no Earth Day Service in 2020, and probably won't be one in 2021, unless we can devise some sort of "workaround". However, we did produce a Social Justice Calendar; provided articles for Connections and bulletin announcements on relevant topics. We have continued in our efforts to promote reconciliation and understanding with our Indigenous neighbours by listing the Truth & Reconciliation Committee's 94 Calls to Action in the weekly bulletins. Some members were able to participate in events in support of the Wet'suwet'en and Black Lives Matter causes. Early in the year we were asked to work with the Coady Institute's Social Justice Engagement Committee, however the pandemic appears to have halted that work. We continue to look for opportunities to educate ourselves and our fellow congregants in various areas of concern; and support social justice projects within St James and our local community – with the blessing of the congregation. New members and ideas are always welcome. For more information, please contact any of our current members: Sarah Armstrong, Michèle Ashby, Christine Briand, Anne Camozzi, Linda Darwish, Krista Lauff, Barb deMarsh, Hope Graham or Joan MacGillivray.

HOT MEAL PROGRAM

A meeting was held in September with the Hot Meal team representatives to discuss how to move forward in a time when we could not serve sit down meals. It was agreed to give \$1,000 to the Antigonish Food Bank.

Betty Webber called all the people in the Tuesday group and Judy MacLean called the Thursday group members to thank them for the work they have done.

When we are again able to meet in person, most likely in the Fall, all the team members will meet to look at how we can move forward with the Hot Meal program. We will also discuss how to honour Irene MacLeod in all the work she did with the Hot Meal.

Betty Webber

REGION 15 REPORT

On 10 June, Rev Peter, Joan MacGillivray, Tim Hinds and myself attended the Annual Meeting of Regional Council 15 via a video conference. Along with almost another 200 good United Church folks. The actual meeting was accomplished with no major problems. There were all the standard items of any AGM. But the Mission, Vision and Core Values were of interest:

Mission – Inspired by God, we are Christ's people in Bermuda and NS, loving each other, following Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Vision – To become a transformed, courageous, Spirit- filled community, risking discipleship based on the radical love of Jesus.

Core Values – Connecting and strengthening communities of faith by:

- Living into expansive belonging
- Nurturing creative ways of Christian vitality
- Sharing and living the Good News
- Moving forward in hope and generosity
- Growing compassionate leadership
- Uniting by effective communication
- Modelling Christ's humility and justice

There was a vote on Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union's Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel. The background to this is that the 43rd General Council in 2019 approved a change to Article 10.0 of

the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and (ii) authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change. The Question: Does the Regional Council agree that: (a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows 10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities. This passed after brief discussion.

Fairly standard Auditor's Reports and 2021 Budgets were passed. It was noted that almost all churches are experiencing financial struggles at this time and therefore caution is a recurring theme. Elections were then held for the General Council Commissioners. Following the benediction, the meeting wrapped up. Tim and I were pleased to participate and if nominated would certainly consider returning. But we also encourage any of you to think about attending. Our church is strong and it's an honour to observe it in action.

- Michèle Ashby

The Regional Council 15 held its recall Annual meeting on November 5 via Zoom. It is a very different meeting online, as participants don't get to interact and talk to others but it was a very educational and interesting meeting and it didn't go on too long.

The meeting began with worship led by the 3 people who will be ordained and the 1 person to be recognized the following Sunday. Each person also had an opportunity to introduce themselves. It was very interesting to hear their journeys.

There was also a presentation by the Justice, Mission, and Outreach (JMO) Committee. It was great to hear about all the work that they are doing. They began with their purpose as stated in the United Church New Creed "to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil". They stressed the importance of how each of us is the church and how we can each act to bring justice locally and globally. The areas of justice they highlighted included Indigenous peoples, Palestine and the United Church sponsorship of Syrian refugee families in Cape Breton, plus anti racism. Another large part of their work is the Ecological Justice Working Group and their work in climate justice. In this they work closely with the Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI. They are currently studying a book by Jim Antal called Climate Church, Climate

World on how the climate crisis is part of the work of the church. They also mentioned a webinar which I have been taking part in called "For the Love of Creation" about resources for small groups on climate change and actions to reduce carbon emissions. They noted that the United Church has made a commitment to reduce their carbon emission by 80% by 2050.

We also voted on 6 proposals which were discussed in a webinar prior to the meeting. The first proposal was one I have been following as it is a request to review the Green Shield health benefits plan for employees and retirees. It was agreed to send this to the Executive of the General Council for action. While this concern is widespread, especially among retirees, Alan Hall, Executive Minister, Ministry and Employment, wasn't very positive about changes as the plan is owned by the United Church and only administered by Green Shield and funds are lacking. However the Division of Ministry Resources in JMO is going to keep working on this with further conversations with Alan Hall.

The other 5 proposals were from the JMO Committee and all were passed and will move forward.

- Proposal 2 is to support and protect the human rights of Palestinian children in Gaza and Palestine.
- Proposal 3 is on anti racism and to continue the work of learning, listening and action to oppose racism in all its forms.
- Proposal 4 is to press the government to do what it promised regarding missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and also a public inquiry into the fatal deaths of Chantal Moore

and Rodney Levi.

- Proposal 5 is Opposition to Equating Criticism of Israel's Unjust Actions with Anti-Semitism. It is not Anti-Semitism to criticize Israel's treatment of Palestinians.
- Proposal 6 asks the General Council to respond to requests from Kairos and Palestinian Christians that the United Church through study, action and advocacy show the reality of the tragedy and oppression in Palestine. These proposals can be viewed in their entirety on the UCC East website (ucceast.ca).

I was pleased to be able to take part in this meeting and webinar. Thank you to Rev. Peter, Michèle, and Tim who also were part of this meeting.

Joan MacGillivray

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

In 2020, the only UCW meeting was the January general meeting with Christine Briand chairing as President. Valentine tea held in February. Profit down a bit but still very successful. Well received by the public.

On Sunday, March 15, 2020 the Orpah Unit hosted the Syrian wedding reception for Marwan and Batoul. The reception was held in the church hall for approximately 50 people. The Syrian families provided the food and drink and members of the Orpah Unit served and looked after clean up of the kitchen. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by everyone.

The Bursary for graduating students, jointly awarded by UCM and Men's Group, was given to Rebecca van de Weil.

Spring and Fall yard sales cancelled because of Covid

Holly Tea and Sale was cancelled because of Covid

No UCW participation in Men's Club Lobster dinner because of Covid.

Stump Frolic cancelled. UCW involvement therefore cancelled.

Because of our lack of fundraising, most of our annual financial commitments have not been met.

Even though their annual Christmas dinner was cancelled at the Maritime Inn, Ruth Unit members made their usual donation to the Benevolent fund.

Due to Covid, it was decided to forgo our usual gift bags to those ladies in nursing homes etc, but to remember them by sending Christmas greetings by way of "cards". After talking to Rev. Peter five cards were sent.

In addition to separation from Covid, our members faced injury and illness that added further restrictions, but with phone calls, and occasional e-mails and cards we were able to stay in a small way, connected. We were saddened at the loss of Frances Eddie.

The current executive was sworn in in January 2019, for a two year term ending January 2021. As no meetings were held, through 2020, discussions were had to hold the status quo until at least year end.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Briand

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
INCOME STATEMENT 2020**

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Balance as of January 1 | | \$3375.97 |
| Income | | |
| Funerals | \$1080.00 | |
| BCE | \$835.65 | |
| Unit Dues | \$115.15 | |
| Donations | \$360.56 | |
| Valentine Tea | \$796.86 | |
| Kitchen Rent | \$350.00 | |
| Total Income | | \$3538.22 |
| Expenses | | |
| Benevolent Fund | \$720.00 | |
| Books | \$100.00 | |
| Supplies | \$364.38 | |
| Donations | \$485.00 | |
| Bank Fees | \$48.00 | |
| Mission and Service | \$1000.00 | |
| Gifts | \$114.10 | |
| Total Expenses | | \$2831.48 |
| Net Income | | \$706.74 |
| Balance as of December 31 | | \$4082.71 |

Donations in 2020 were made to:

St. James Memorial Fund, Royal Canadian Legion, Prayer Shawl Group, Dr. J.H.Gillis High School Bursary

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Chapman

PRAYER SHAWL COMMITTEE

The members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry met in January and February of 2020 with no idea that we would not be meeting in March or the months thereafter due to Covid-19. As our inventory was high, we felt we could carry on in giving out shawls. All the shawls on hand were made before the pandemic and we felt they could be safely given when needed. If any shawls are being made during the pandemic, they are made keeping in mind that hands are washed before starting to knit and that the knitting would be well wrapped when put aside. Fourteen shawls had been made and turned in by the end of February and during the year five shawls and two lap robes were given out. We ask that when you know of someone who might benefit in receiving a shawl that you contact any member of this ministry. The members are: Mary MacLean, Liz Millett, Pamela Cunningham, Sherri Bowman, Erin Trenholm, Barbara MacNeil, Mavis Murray.

Respectfully submitted,
Mavis Murray

MEN'S CLUB

Members of the Men's Club gathered on Monday, January 25th for a potluck supper. There was no speaker. Changes were made on the criteria promotion of the scholarship to the Regional jointly with the UCW for graduating students who are confirmed members of St. James. After some discussion recommendations were made re changes and that applications be reviewed by a representative of the UCW, Men's Club, C.E. Director and Minister. This year the scholarship was given to Rebecca Van de Wiel.

Plans were beginning to be made for the Annual Lobster Supper which was to be held on March 27th. It was also agreed to provide Breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service. The group gathered on February 24th and made final arrangements for the Lobster Supper. The speaker was Owen Allen an instructor with the Air Cadets. He talked about the Air Cadet Program with help from two cadets who told of their experiences with the squadron. Because of Covid 19 the Lobster supper was not held nor did we provide breakfast on Easter Sunday.

As the club was not likely able to hold a Lobster Supper in March 2021 it was decided to sell the lobster packs at a little over cost and use the proceeds to purchase lobster for what we hope will be a Lobster Supper in 2022. The sale was successful as we were able to sell all the lobster packs. We have not held any meetings since February due to Covid 19.

Respectively Submitted
Robert Murray, President

MEN'S CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <u>BALANCE</u> | <u>Jan 1, 2020</u> | <u>2691.49</u> |
| INCOME | | |
| Dues | 250.00 | |
| Lobster sales | 4415.00 | 4665.00 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| UCW Bursary | 250.00 | |
| Benevolent Fund | 200 | |
| Food Bank | 100.00, | |
| General Fund | 2000.00 | 2550.00 |
| Casket Ad | 177.68, | |
| Garden Committee | 150.00 | 327.68 |
| <u>BALANCE</u> | <u>Dec 31, 2020</u> | <u>4478.81</u> |

Fred Davison, Treasurer

NORTHERN NOVA SCOTIA FOUNDATION

In his last will and testament, Dr. John Benjamin Stewart directed the executor to establish a charitable foundation to be known as the “Northern Nova Scotia Foundation” (The Foundation) to provide scholarships for high school graduates from Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness, Richmond, Victoria and Cape Breton counties in Nova Scotia who are entering an undergraduate program at a Canadian university.

Dr. Stewart left the conditions governing the awarding of the scholarships and management of the foundation to the discretion of three trustees- one appointed by the Dean of Arts, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS; one appointed by the Minister of St. James United Church, Antigonish, NS; and one appointed by the President of Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.

The three trustees of the foundation in 2020 were Iain Boyd as trustee from St. Francis Xavier University, Carole Gillies as trustee for Dalhousie University, and Rev. Peter Smith as trustee from St. James United Church.

This year was both exciting and challenging for the Foundation as 2020 was the first time that Dr. John. B. Stewart Scholarship were issued and the applicants and trustees struggled with the difficulty of schools being closed because of Covid-19 restrictions. Despite the challenges the Foundation received 53 applications from graduates from all seven counties in Northeastern Nova Scotia representing seventeen high schools. The Trustees carefully reviewed all the applications and undertook the difficult process of selecting recipients. In the end 32 graduates were chosen to receive \$1000 entrance scholarships from the Foundation.

Last year the trustees also reviewed and reinvested Dr. Stewart's endowment with the East Coast Credit Union and currently have \$1,332,520.55 in guaranteed short term investments. While interest rates have fallen over the past year, the trustees are confident that we can continue to fulfil Dr. Stewart's vision of helping students in northeastern Nova Scotia attend university.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Peter Smith
Iain Boyd
Carole Gillies

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH - BUDGET 2021

| <u>GENERAL FUND</u> | <u>BUDGET 2021</u> | UNREVIEWED AS OF <u>DEC 31,20</u> | <u>BUDGET 2020</u> |
|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>MINISTRY</u> | | | |
| SALARY | 71,053 | 69,797 | 69,834 |
| TRAVEL | 500 | 505 | 500 |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION | 1,442 | 484 | 1,442 |
| ANNUAL ASSESSMENT | 7,106 | 7,106 | 7,106 |
| PULPIT SUPPLY | 2,160 | 648 | 2,160 |
| | <u>82,261</u> | <u>78,540</u> | <u>81,042</u> |
| <u>CHRISTIAN FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT</u> | | | |
| CF&D DIRECTOR | 6,255 | 5,460 | 5,698 |
| SS MATERIAL | 500 | - | 1,000 |
| | <u>6,755</u> | <u>5,460</u> | <u>6,698</u> |
| <u>MUSIC / WORSHIP MINISTRY</u> | | | |
| WAGES, ORGANIST | 21,462 | 20,611 | 21,000 |
| ORGANIST SUPPLY & GUESTS | 800 | 120 | 800 |
| TRANSFER TO MUSIC FUND | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE | 400 | - | 400 |
| WORSHIP | 1,750 | 2,203 | 1,500 |
| | <u>24,662</u> | <u>23,184</u> | <u>23,950</u> |
| <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> | | | |
| WAGES, SECRETARY | 14,846 | 14,385 | 15,095 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | 8,300 | 7,613 | 7,300 |
| PENSION& GROUP INSURANCE | 21,700 | 19,068 | 18,500 |
| SABBATICAL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| SALARIES AND WAGES, ACCRUED | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| TREASURER HONORARIUM | 4,004 | 3,920 | 3,820 |
| INSURANCE CHURCH | 7,188 | 6,986 | 7,067 |
| PHOTOCOPIER | 2,000 | 290 | 2,000 |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES | 800 | 445 | 900 |
| POSTAGE | 700 | 632 | 700 |
| TELEPHONE/INTERNET | 3,950 | 3,854 | 3,500 |
| INTEREST & BANK CHARGES | 2,200 | 1,969 | 2,100 |
| GIFTS | 650 | 635 | 600 |
| STAFF EDUCATION | 500 | - | 500 |
| PAYROLL EXPENSES | 925 | 887 | 850 |
| FIRE LEVY | 250 | 219 | 250 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | - | - | - |
| | <u>70,013</u> | <u>62,903</u> | <u>65,182</u> |

| | <u>BUDGET 2021</u> | UNREVIEWED AS OF <u>31-DEC,2020</u> | <u>BUDGET 2020</u> |
|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| <u>CHURCH MAINTENANCE & OPERATION</u> | | | |
| WAGES, CUSTODIAN | 19,032 | 18,058 | 18,120 |
| CUSTODIAN SUPPLY | 450 | 461 | 400 |
| HEATING OIL | 13,000 | 12,263 | 15,000 |
| ELECTRICITY | 6,500 | 5,787 | 8,000 |
| REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE | 2,000 | 1,846 | 2,000 |
| WATER & SEWER | 500 | 416 | 500 |
| SUPPLIES | 1,200 | 963 | 1,500 |
| GARBAGE REMOVAL | 900 | 696 | 1,700 |
| SNOW CLEARING & SALTING | 500 | - | 500 |
| ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| Ch Maint & Op Recovery (HM) | - | - | - |
| | <u>45,082</u> | <u>40,490</u> | <u>48,720</u> |
| <u>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & HOSPITALITY</u> | | | |
| EXPENSES | 300 | 0 | 300 |
| HOT MEAL EXPENSES | - | 0 | - |
| HOT MEAL DONATIONS (NO RECEIPT) | - | 0 | - |
| HOT MEAL DONATIONS | - | 0 | - |
| TRANSFER IN - H.M. FUND | - | 0 | - |
| | <u>300</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>300</u> |
| <u>OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS</u> | | | |
| EXPENSES | 500 | - | 500 |
| ST. DAVIDS PROJECT | 2,000 | 800 | 3,500 |
| AST DONATION | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | <u>3,000</u> | <u>1,300</u> | <u>4,500</u> |
| <u>FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</u> | | | |
| ENVELOPES | 550 | 547 | 500 |
| MISSION & SERVICE SUNDAY | 200 | - | 200 |
| | <u>750</u> | <u>547</u> | <u>700</u> |
| <u>MISSION AND SERVICE</u> | | | |
| | 25,000 | 20,534 | 25,000 |
| | <u>25,000</u> | <u>20,534</u> | <u>25,000</u> |

