



# CONNECTIONS

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

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

Spring 2022

*"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.*

*And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all."*

- Acts 44:33

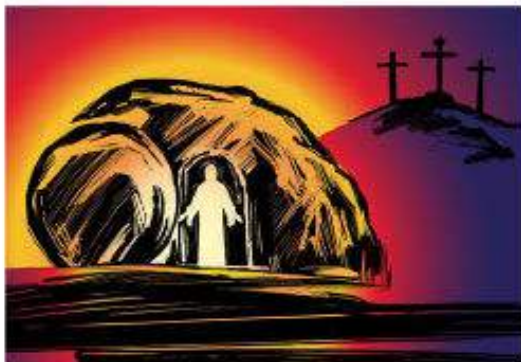


*Easter 2022*

Dear Friends in Christ,

What's going to happen now? The disciples had been with Jesus for years and had seen the wonders that God worked through him. Then the events of Holy Week happen and they find themselves caught up in the chaos of things beyond their control. Everything seems to be over on Good Friday and yet the word begins to spread on Easter Sunday that the incredible has taken place - Jesus is alive. Suddenly amidst their fear and worry they have a future they never expected. They look back and see that God has been at work in their lives and now they have to trust and believe that God will be with them as they discover what life is like as an Easter people.

What's going to happen now? After two difficult years of pandemic rules and uncertainty we're



finally looking to move past Covid-19. We have optimism that the future will mean a return to the beloved activities and life around the church that we have missed so much. Yet as we stand at this point, we're also uncertain and unsure. We don't know what life will be like in the days and weeks to come. All we can do is look back and remember the goodness of God during our difficult days and look forward in trust that God will show us the future that is possible because of the cross and empty tomb.

This Easter, let us remember and give thanks for the love which God shows to us in Jesus, and let us allow that love to support us, encourage us, and show us the way forward as we discover the who God is calling us to be as Christians and a Church. Into their lives the Saviour of the world has arrived.

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

## What is Connections?

St James has been blessed to have had multi-talented and generous individuals over the years to help shine a light on the life of our church and community. Catherine Murray, Beryl Publicover, Tara Nicholson and Brenda Rose have been at the helm over the years as Editors.

We now welcome a new team, Chad Brazier and Sarah Armstrong, who will coproduce Connections. The invitation is the same i.e. for the congregation to share, whether big or small, to help us know each other and the times we're living in. This is a way to introduce newcomers. We can gladly ask a new family or individual if they'd be willing to share a little about themselves so we can learn more. And that book you've read that stirred or answered some puzzling questions, we can share. Our many groups have a ready place to make known their projects or upcoming events. The issues, four per year, are before Easter, before summer, before Thanksgiving and before Christmas.

You can send in contributions by email to [stjamesconnections@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesconnections@gmail.com) or leave at The Office with note to pass along to Chad or Sarah.

- Fran Wittgens



*"War is the greatest destroyer of human life, the greatest polluter, the greatest creator of refugees, the greatest cause of starvation and illness. We all have to care not just for our own little circle, but for the universe."*

Muriel Duckworth,  
Canadian pacifist, feminist, and community activist

## Welcome: our new organist Carolyn Curry

For many in our congregation, Carolyn needs no introduction. Having grown up in Antigonish she's well known to many. However, as an educational



opportunities took her away for a few years and she's lived in Halifax for five years, returning to Antigonish about a year ago, here's some information about her.

She's the youngest of a family of eight. Her family are the "Claymore Inn" Currys, not the "CL Currys" - who are her cousins. She was raised attending St Ninian's Cathedral, so it's somewhat "tit for tat" that we now benefit from her expertise, as they now enjoy our former congregant Emery van de Wiel as their organist!

Since returning to Antigonish she's enjoyed being part of Theatre Antigonish's production last year of "Robin Hood", was the Musical Director for the radio show "A Christmas Carol", and is eagerly anticipating working in their production of "The Hobbit" this summer.

Carolyn has been teaching part-time for StFX for three years now - working with the a cappella ensemble, and teaching songwriting courses. She also gives private piano and voice lessons - finding teaching adults rewarding as they're generally highly motivated to participate and hone their skills. Carolyn writes her own music in a variety of genres.

Lately she's been taking classes herself in Improv Theatre and Play Writing. She feels it's

## Welcome to Carolyn (continued)

important as an instructor to be a student sometimes too as it gives you some perspective.

While Carolyn doesn't have much experience playing the organ, she's more than willing to learn and given that she's a multi-talented musician (playing bass guitar and piano while also having dabbled in bagpipes and a variety of brass instruments), there's no doubt that she'll be able to catch on quickly.

In her spare time, Carolyn enjoys reading, (mostly science fiction and fantasy), and taking walks with her sisters. She likes socializing over a good meal and is fond of cooking and baking. Fish being one of her "go-to" meals, one of Carolyn's other favourite pleasures is a good cup of black coffee! She supports local suppliers such as "Kicking Horse" and "Laughing Whale".

She and her partner Jesse, (who works at the Justamere Café), share their home with a pretty tabby cat named Gizmo.

We're excited to have Carolyn join us as our accompanist and will no doubt benefit from her expertise!

We are grateful to Nicholas Davies who has been lending his videography skills to create recordings of our weekly services for our YouTube Channel.

Thank you Nicholas!

You can watch the most recent service, and our archived services by searching

"St James Antigonish" on  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)



## The St James Bell Choir - an update -

Hello to everyone at St. James and I am so pleased to see that we are slowly starting to recover from the last two years with COVID. As with most things, our bell choir was put on hiatus until conditions improved. Even with the two year pause, a small group of us managed to get together and practice from time to time. I hope you were able to see a few of the performances during the online services. These were so much fun to do and we send out heartfelt thanks to Kenji for always making us look our very best. We are planning to have the main bell choir start up again in the fall. Over our prolonged absence, we have lost

some of our players and would love to have some new members join us going forward. Our group is filled with lovely souls who support each other in learning and we ring out our mistakes loud and proud while having a chuckle about it. We would happily welcome anyone who is interested in trying out a new hobby. Look for our announcement in September!

- Tara Nicholson



## Where are they now? - Marilyn Gerriets -

In November of 2019 I moved from Antigonish to Waterloo Ontario. After a summer visit to my daughter in Waterloo, I had decided to move in the spring of 2020. But anticipating moving made me anxious, so I decided to relocate in the fall and then return in the spring of 2020 to organise selling my house. That plan also provided a return option, if I found I didn't like living in Waterloo.

Many plans were upset in the spring of 2020. Fortunately I liked living in Waterloo, so I didn't need the option of returning. I very much enjoyed being able to see my daughter regularly. My new apartment placed me in a 15 minute city. Everything I needed, from groceries to hardware to two United Churches, was within a 15 minute walk. The Church I chose to attend, First United, was the closest and it had a bell choir as well as a welcoming congregation and a beautiful sanctuary.

Fortunately, I had a close and reliable friend, Karen, who had been helping me care for my house for years, as well as a very reliable tenant, Brenda. So Karen undertook the considerable work of preparing my house for sale and Brenda made it available for viewing by buyers. My house was sold in the summer of 2020.

In the fall of 2019 I enjoyed exploring Cafes and shops, attending church and coffee hour and meeting co-residents of my apartment building who often chatted in the lobby in mid-afternoon. So I discovered some friends and some community. All that stopped in March of 2020, of course. But my apartment is on the ground floor, so I continued socialising from my balcony, either popping up from behind the yew bush when I saw someone I knew, or inviting friends for a balcony visit. I even bought a small step ladder to



make access to it a little easier.

Like everyone else, I am very much hoping that socialising will return to normal, and I can again enjoy the benefits of my 15 minute city as well as explore further afield in the KW region. But it is a slow process. Even someone's vaccination doesn't guarantee that they won't carry Omicron, and I am in one of the highest risk groups, so I am still avoiding being indoors with people.

But, if all goes well, and the cosmos decides we have had enough unpleasant surprises, I will return for a visit. I'm hoping for this summer, but my plans are not yet firm. It will be a great joy to see all my friends at St. James, and to enjoy the extensive wilderness that surrounds Antigonish. I have missed both very much.

- Marilyn Gerriets

## What is it Like to be a Re-enactor?

I have for a very long time been interested in history. I also have a keen interest in theatre and acting. Now when you combine the two together, well...you get a very interesting hobby; that is the world of Re-enacting or living history.

Re-enactors, or Living Historians often are looked upon by the rest of the world as people who may be slightly a bit outside the norm, and this is often the case. However, re-enactors are mostly ordinary people—of all ages, singles and families, students, retirees and people from many different professions and careers. To actually portray or step into the shoes of someone who may or may not have lived in the past, to see what life was like for them, to go about their daily routines - these things are what makes re-enacting so fascinating

But it's not easy. In order to truly be a re-enactor, you need to have some knowledge of and learn about the period which you are representing. You need information on their style of dress, how they spoke, cooked and what food they consumed and how they would go about their daily routines. This of course requires research. Many of us reenactors like to read history—but one also learns much from meeting other re-enactors at various events.

Many people are familiar with historical re-enactors at various museums and historical sites -

such as the National Historic Sites of the Halifax Citadel, Louisburg and many other smaller ones like Sherbrooke Village. At the Halifax Citadel, the re-enactors are mostly university students, who portray what life would have been like during the reign of Queen Victoria as protectors of the city of Halifax. They all wear authentic military uniforms, are drilled daily in the tactics and routines of a Highland regiment of the British army and maintain the daily tradition of keeping the city of Halifax running smoothly with firing of the noon gun and flying signal flags to share information. I myself worked as a soldier in the Citadel and performed at our Highland Games as one of the precision drill team. I learned a lot, travelled around as far as Colorado, met many fascinating people, and overall had a very interesting time working there.

Another type of historical re-enacting involves groups of similarly-minded people, from all walks of life, who work independently from, or sometimes with, larger organizations such as Parks Canada. These groups usually do their own encampments and give people a closer glimpse of what life would have been like in another age.

The 84th Regiment of foot, or Royal Highland Emigrants, is one such example of this. This organization represents a British Highland Regiment during the time period of the American Revolution, which was stationed in Nova Scotia and subsequently disbanded in the province. Many Loyalist families of mostly Scottish descent were members of this original regiment. I am a member of the current 84th re-



## ...Re-enacting (con't)

enactor group in NS. We are about 25 in number from across the province. We are like-minded Nova Scotians who have a shared interest in military and colonial history of this era. Working independently allows us to do smaller scale events, and travel around to participate in local events in Loyalist towns, at battlefields, farm sites, a historic harbours and sailing ships. But we also do events at National Historic sites, such as the Citadel or Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal. Our encampments are usually done over a weekend, in period tents, with authentically prepared food, period reproduced toys for the children, military drill practices, participation in local events and parades, campfires and much camaraderie. We travel through the summer months to the three Maritime provinces.

Individuals in these groups are required to properly outfit themselves based on their role- which



could be as a tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, spy or as a sutler (merchant trader), blacksmith, cook etc. Some are women and children. This can often therefore be a costly hobby as one may need to search high and low for the necessary accoutrements. The materials needed to make these uniforms, articles of clothing, weapons, etc. can be found from historic tailors, weaponsmiths, sutler's, on the internet or through historical researchers for museums and or historic sites.

Re-enacting is great way to get out and enjoy nature with other like-minded people. At many of our encampments we meet other groups from all over North America. We are always well received by locals and tourists alike and are often invited back to the events and communities we visit.

- Alistair J. Hamilton

## Finding Help for Ukraine

As the world woke up to the horrors of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine in late February, people everywhere struggled with the humanitarian catastrophe they were witnessing and what they could do about it. The Social Justice Committee at St. James conducted a flurry of online discussions in an effort to understand what was happening and how best to respond. Central to our discussions was the need to promote peace worldwide while donating individually and supporting refugees who decide to come to Canada.

The St. James Social Justice Committee made a commitment to work for peace and disarmament. We were guided by the United Church of Canada's statement on March 2, 2022: "The United Church of Canada condemns the invasion of Ukraine by President Putin of Russia. This act of aggression contravenes the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and represents a serious violation of international law. We call on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and to undertake action to restore peace, including through the negotiations underway in Belarus."

At about the same time we were having these discussions, Rev. Peter received an email from Clarence Deyoung of Pomquet, who was working with a local Ukrainian family. Clarence reached out as he was asked to organize a group, including several local service clubs and churches, who might be interested in collecting items to send to Ukraine. They were initially hoping to send goods instead of cash. I liaised with Clarence on behalf of our committee and provided him with information from Social Justice Committee member, Anne Camozzi, who was receiving news from contacts in Ukraine and Poland, as well as information we were receiving from national and international media and charity/NGO groups.

The Committee identified reliable on-the-ground charities to whom we could safely donate after determining that sending money was the most secure and useful source of support needed at this time. It became increasingly evident that cash helps people who are leaving Ukraine, helps hotels house people and helps seasoned on-the-ground organizations like Doctors Without Borders ([www.doctorswithoutborders.ca](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.ca)), the United Church of Canada ([www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/ukraine-crisis](http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/ukraine-crisis)), the Canadian Red Cross ([www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)), and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank ([www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca)). The safe delivery of goods is increasingly difficult and this was also verified by Anne's contacts.

*"This is the Way of Peace: Overcome Evil with Good, Falsehood with Truth, and Hatred with Love" - Peace Pilgrim*

In a recent email, Clarence reported that his group decided to send money for the reasons I have outlined and plan a community blitz to get the message out. In a related matter, our Committee concluded that Prayers for Peace was a simple yet profound message for the display board outside our church doors.

Our focus is to get financial support to the groups who can use it the most. Let us hold fast to our common humanity and do what we can where we are.

- Barbara DeMarsh



Svitlana (left) pictured with her 13-year old daughter and 65-year old mother.

## The Ukraine War - One Family's Story

I first met Svitlana Galun, a Ukrainian artist when she followed me on Twitter about four years ago. She was also an editor and writer for a women's magazine and a philologist (student of languages). When the Ukraine conflict began, I checked her Twitter account to see how she was. Her first tweet on the war on February 24 seemed more angry than worried.

*"Russia launched a full-scale invasion of #Ukraine. We hear explosions. So I want to show my new painting 'Winter in the Holosilivsky park. #Kyiv'. Now I don't know when I'll be able to paint again."* (posted with a beautiful painting of a winter park)

After an absence of a few days, she retweeted horrifying pictures of shelling in the Luhansk Region. When she tweeted a link where people could buy prints and so she could donate money to the war effort. Over the next days, her tweets showed increasing devastation. On March 3, I reached out on direct message and asked if she was okay, after she tweeted:

*"Russian invaders destroyed an entire street in Malin. People died, including 2 small children. Rescuers are looking for victims #Ukraine #UkraineRussianWar #UkraineUnderAttack (With more horrible pictures).*

Svitlana told me she, her thirteen year old daughter and sixty-five year old mother had been in a bomb shelter for a few days. They thought they would never have to go to one, since they lived on the outskirts of the capital city of Kyiv. At that point, she still felt the bomb shelter might be temporary, though there was shelling every day. She was worried and thinking of evacuating, but her daughter and mother did not want to leave and were upset, her daughter

weeping. Svitlana tweeted a video of herself singing in the bomb shelter to calm her daughter, and sent this picture below of three of them in the shelter.

On March 9, Svitlana tweeted about the maternity and children's hospital destroyed in Mariupol.

*"Consequences of an airstrike in #Mariupol. The maternity hospital and children's hospital were destroyed #UkraineWar #UkraineUnderAttack #UkraineRussianWar"* The accompanying picture was soul-destroying. I urged her to consider leaving Ukraine, but even then, Svitlana said her mother could not bear to leave. We wrote many times discussing what she should do and one of my messages she translated into Ukrainian for her mother and finally, her mother was persuaded.

I quickly did fundraising amongst some close family and friends (though Svitlana had asked for nothing) and figured out how to transfer money from my credit card directly to hers for emergency funds for their journey, so she would not need to get to a bank. Svitlana explained they would have to camp for two days on a train platform to get a train and that she would be in communication only when she could, indicating the journey out of Ukraine would be long and dangerous. We discussed what she would carry and how hard it would be. In the meantime I was in contact with a Twitter artist friend in Poland who sent lots of information written in Ukrainian to help Svitlana if she made it there.

One of Svitlana's last tweets said: *"I created my account to show my paintings and photos. And now I have to show the horrors of #UkraineWar. I would like my paintings to survive."* (Under this tweet was a beautiful painting of the sea.)

Our last conversation was March 10. Then I waited. Almost eleven days of silence and my heart was breaking with worry for the three of

them. Finally I got a short email. Her first words were *"We are alive."* After a long arduous journey, including two days in a crowded refugee camp in Poland, the family arrived in Berlin by train. When they stepped off the train, a German family came forward and offered immediate accommodation. To Svitlana's distress, both she and her mother contracted Covid somewhere and are still recovering, but she related that: *Our neighbour sometimes lends me her laptop and I can write to you.....They helped us a lot in Berlin. We cannot change Ukrainian hryvnias here, but I can pay here with my card. After quarantine, we will be registered as refugees. Germany promises to pay benefit. There are very kind people in Germany and we were received very well..... Every day Russians bomb Kyiv and destroy houses, people die. Here we feel safe."*

I was glad I had not transferred money directly to Svitlana's bank account, as those Ukrainian dollars would have been useless. The latest is that they are recovering from Covid and waiting to be registered, and completely unsure of their future. Her most recent note said: *"Today I have read the news and cried. The neighbourhood of Kyiv were destroyed. We are safe now. We are looking how beautiful Berlin is. But we cannot be happy knowing that there is a war in Ukraine right now."*

Life changes in an instant, and it has forever changed for Svitlana and her family. I'm now raffling one of her prints and will send Svitlana the proceeds for food. Her gratitude has been overwhelming. I told her that I would want someone to do the same for me if I was in her situation. Another deep sadness I carry is the knowledge that it's primarily the sick, the disabled, and the elderly that cannot escape. There has to be a better way for us all to live together on this planet.

- Anne Camozzi

## - In Memoriam -

We lost cherished loved ones and members of our congregation who we remember fondly. We are thankful for the happy memories we share and are comforted by the faith that our dear ones are at peace.

### **Robert (Bob) Murray**



It was about 25 years ago that I phoned Bob Murray later in the evening to check on something. Mavis informed me that he was still in the accountant's office at Eastern Auto on Main Street. General Motors had a new computer format for doing monthly dealer reports and the system was at best cantankerous as was Bob. I had occasionally seen Bob striding home for supper during daylight hours and can imagine a more rapid pace as midnight approached. Bob got a good deal on a new car when he retired.

I think it was Doris who played first violin in the Pictou County Community Orchestra (PCCO) while Bob tended to cover the second part. It appears Bob and Doris were not immune to each other during school days...until Mavis appeared. Bob and I drove to PCCO practice together from Antigonish. Shared anecdotes included Bob working for the bank in Kennetcook and visiting Mavis in the "San" in Kentville. Bob early left his stamp on the world, growing up in an apartment above the New

Glasgow Post Office. Finding work at Eastern Auto in Antigonish allowed Bob and Mavis to be together and happy despite leaving their beloved Pictou County. Recently, conversation lagged a bit on returns from PCCO practice. Maybe ninety minutes reading music at the age of 88 slows down your brain.

Once, Mavis invited Sheila and me to one of Bob's birthday parties. I have continued to be impressed by Bob's repeated enthusiastic responses - "A coffee mug! How Nice!" "A coffee mug! To share with Mavis!" "A coffee mug! I really like the colour!" In the end there was a mug for every day of the week. I don't remember for sure, but Bob might have been like young Joseph in Egypt placing a chalice in Benjamin's grain bag. I think Sheila's purse was a bit heavier as we exited, satiated with Mavis' good cooking.

Another memory: Bob saying, "Fred, will you be treasurer for Men's Club?" "Sure, Bob" So at the end of several Lobster Dinners we sat together for a couple of hours waiting for some late customers. "They said they would be here by four!" No problem, Bob, I'll just count the twenties while we wait and gab.

Bob thrived on responsibility. Strong on family and community. A man about town. Bob Murray gave us all a great run. As Charlie Farquharson (of Hee-Haw fame) might intone - we hope Bob's with the angels, smiling while dragging horse hairs over some cat gut strings (and haggling just a little over the tempo).

Best Wishes, Bob! We remember!

- Fred Davison

### **Rita Scott**



Rita was a woman of passion. Walking into her home her passion was so obvious. It can be broken down into three areas. Her first passion grew for 50 years for her late husband Ron. Her second passion was for the three children she and Ron raised and watched grow to adulthood. The third, as I am sure you can guess, was for her 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Her home was very much a photo gallery of each and every child at many different stages. Meeting Rita in church, on the street or at home, always resulted in one or more current stories about her children or their children.

Rita's working life centered on the food industry. She worked many years for the Brigadoon Restaurant, the Goshen, Myer's Tea Room and with her family at Scott Catering. I am sure many of us at one time or another had a meal served to us by Rita. Her biscuits and

cookies were a delight to all, especially at family functions or St. James coffee hour.

Rita loved a good game of cards, a cup of tea and being with friends and family. Her garden was always beautiful throughout the year. Her clothesline so often was full of super white tablecloths all hanging in a row. Rita and her sister Mae could be found out for morning coffee or walking around the university rink or at Club 60 for exercise. Cooking for others was a top priority in her life.

The years went by and as with so many of us, Rita's body betrayed her and began to limit her life more as her mobility slowed down and she began staying home more often.

Rita Scott was a faithful member of St. James for many years. Her husband Ron, was the custodian of the church for a number of years. Many a day the window ledges, the pews, the choir seats, the pulpit and especially the glass top of the communion table received a thorough cleaning from Rita. It was always shining in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. The next time you sit in a pew think of Rita who more than once gave of her time and energy to keep the pew you are sitting in clean and ready for us to praise God.

- Pam Cunningham



## Keith Adams



It's hard to summarize so many memories of someone who touched so many hearts and who left us far too soon. Dad was the son of Alex and Ella Adams of Cape George. He was one of fourteen

children, eleven boys and three girls to be exact. My brothers, Chris and Carroll, and I always enjoyed Dad telling us many great stories of happy times he had growing up on the family farm, including the occasional mischief he and his brothers would cause. You can only imagine how much patience Nanny and Grampy had to have!

Dad also enjoyed spending time up at his log cabin with his siblings and friends. He also loved driving his first new 1965 blue Comet convertible car that he was so proud of!!

He then travelled to Toronto to work in construction, then to the Vanderhoof, BC to work in the logging industry. He then returned home to pursue his dream of owning his own lobster fishing gear which used fishing off the shore of Ballantyne's Cove for the past sixty years - where he was in his element.

Dad's other interests were collecting antique vehicles and restoring his Heritage home built in 1908 at the Cape George Lighthouse that he was so proud of.

He had a great knowledge of family and local history. He enjoyed storytelling and being surrounded by family, especially his grandchildren who he adored.

I have fond memories of going to church on Sundays during the summer at the Cape and he would be beaming with pride when I would walk in

to surprise him. He made no hesitation to question the minister on the scripture readings for clarification on occasion.

Dad was a free spirit, hardworking, true to his roots, had strong faith, danced to the beat of his own drum and was a legend in his own right. He was a loving father, a loyal friend and a good neighbour to many.

We were so proud to call him our father and so grateful to have spent as much time with Dad as we did - especially in the last several months of his illness. When he was feeling up to us, we spent lots of quality time together enjoying family meals and took lots of notes when he spoke of family and local history. We visited with family and friends (practicing social distancing of course), watching his favourite TV programs and taking drives to the Cape.

We will miss him forever. We take comfort in knowing that he is no longer suffering and he is resting in peace with the rest of our loved ones.

Rest easy Dad...until we meet again.

- Cathy Adams

Keithie was a friend to many and often a first in reaching out to other people. He was the first to assist [my late husband] Ralph in an outdoor project when we moved to the Cape. He was the first to arrive at our door with lobsters and also the first to leave a package of homemade butter in my mailbox every Christmas.

I had a habit, since often I had most of my baking done, to put the butter in the freezer for later on.

About three years ago, I carefully wrapped the butter and put it in the freezer to store. A few weeks later, when I took the butter out to enjoy on some toast, I unwrapped the package and to my surprise found something yellow and well frozen inside. It was a pair of snow mittens not butter at all!!

I guess butter was scarce that year, and again we had a great laugh and another "first" from Keithie.

- Betty Anne Webber

## Gordon Morrison



As custodian of St. James, I was fortunate to have Gordon as my predecessor. He made sure that I had the benefit of his experience, and that I was witness to the thought and the care that he put into everything he did for St. James. When I was first approached about taking on the position - I think it may even have been Gord who asked me - I wasn't immediately convinced. It was more varied than any job I had had, with a wide array of responsibilities, based on the weather and the "church season". Not only did Gord introduce me to and train me on the behind-the-scenes work involved in maintaining our beautiful church building and grounds, but he was close at hand for years after the position became mine. He was simply always there to answer my unending questions about anything to do with building operations, how to prepare for a specific church service, or even just imparting a sense of calm propriety to our space of worship. I remember always being impressed by Gord's high standards and attention to detail - a few times he would notice something out of place that I didn't, or just as soon as it happened. This left an impression on me, and I do feel that as I work and serve that I'm following a pattern laid down by him.

Gord had an easygoing and affable demeanor and was a person you could quickly grow to trust. This calm and reassuring quality was deeply appreciated by

me as I adapted to my work, as it would have been to countless people he served in his professional career. He certainly wasn't easily fazed, at least in the time I knew him. If anything ever went awry, Gord was consistent in his advice, basically: 'no big deal - everything will be fine'.

At St. James, he will be remembered by all for his ever-present warm smile and his love of Christian fellowship, which was obvious when among old friends at St. James, but also plain to see whenever new people came to church. Gord noticed, and made sure that a sincere welcome was always extended to anybody visiting for the first time, providing a caring personal connection, for all he could know, just when it was needed most. Gord did this out of an overlapping sense of love and duty, for these strangers, as fellow Christians, and as an ambassador for his beloved St. James community; he did that for us too. Let us be inspired by Gord's example of service.

Gord was a talented musician and singer, which we all know very well. We remember and miss the distinctive sound of his voice in our church choir, and mens' choir. It was clear to everyone how happy Gord was to perform together with Christine for our church service, providing guitar accompaniment to her sweet singing. What a privilege this was to experience on certain Sundays. Gord was musically gifted, and he gifted us all in turn.

Outside of "work", I really enjoyed any moment I got to spend with Gord, like sharing lunch together after a morning of yard work at the Morrisons'. I especially appreciated being able to draw from his woodworking experience and skills.. examples of his work we can see all over St. James, and will for many years to come.

I treasure the times I spent with Gord in his basement workshop, him helping me to process lumber for my own projects, while demonstrating techniques and patiently answering my many questions. Gord always encouraged my developing skills in woodcrafts, and I am grateful to him for that. Because of his passion and impressive

productivity, I've been pushed to improve my own abilities. I'll think of Gord often in the years ahead, as I do now, when I work on wood projects, using what I learned from him. I am very happy that I was able to know who Gordon Morrison was, and I know that all of St. James would agree.

- Chad Brazier



Gordon Morrison Memorial Service  
Saturday, April 23rd at 2:00pm  
St James United Church

## Margie Linkletter

I have known Margie for a while. She was a faithful member of St. David's Church at Cape George, and Margie and family lived at Livingstone Cove. After moving to Antigonish and settled in Greenwold Manor, Margie became a regular attendee of St. James. Margie was always very interested in what the United Church Women (UCW) were planning and wanted to help in whatever way she could.

Margie was an active member of St. James Senior Group and we all enjoyed it when it was Margie's turn to help with lunch. She made the most delicious oat cakes. Margie really enjoyed "coffee hour" following church before Covid restrictions paused them. We all miss Margie and her gracious smile.

- Joyce Hilling



## Jessie Barkhouse

Jessie was an active member of St. James United Church and the Orpah unit of the United Church Women (UCW). She was Treasurer of the Orpah unit for many years, a job in which she took great pride. She was always willing to be involved in the life of the church.



Towards the end of her life she had slowed down but still enjoyed getting out and about. Her faithful companion was her dog Charlie. Charlie could be a bit cranky but Jessie loved him dearly.

Jessie will be missed but we will always remember her infectious smile and her willingness to help.

- Ida Sarty



Helen and Jessie were like peas in a pod. They were together most every day. They'd be enjoying one another's company from playing cards to shopping for groceries. On Sundays you could find them in church. They sure enjoyed each other's company.

- Sampson Family

## FUNDSCRIP: Support St. James without spending any extra money!

FUNDSCRIP is a gift card fundraising program where you buy gift cards and a percentage of your purchase is donated back to St James. You can order through the church by submitting an order with payment on the second Sunday of each month and pick them up the following Sunday, or you can order online anytime and get your cards mailed to your door in just a few days!

### WHY buy Fundscrip cards?

**As gifts:** you can buy e-cards, reloadable cards (that you can give and top up whenever you want), and cards for stores across Canada for family and friends who live away.

**As a budgeting tool:** If you plan your spending, you can buy gift cards to budget your expenses.

**As way to help St James:** If you know you will be spending money on groceries and other items, you can make that spending more meaningful by using Fundscrip cards that donate to St. James.

### HOW TO ORDER FUNDSCRIP CARDS ONLINE:

- Go to Fundscrip.com and register for an account.
- Choose to "Support a Group". St James' invitation code is UVS4XR
- Browse e-cards, reloadable cards and physical cards
  - Search by Category or Type of Card; or,
  - Search by Retailer in the Search Bar
- Indicate how value and quantity of the cards you want and click "Add to Cart"
- When you are ready to checkout, there are a few steps to complete..
  - Check your order details to make sure they are correct
  - Under Shipping click "EDIT" to choose your shipping method
  - Select "Direct Shipping" from the Shipping Method menu (left hand menu)
- You must click the ☺ to proceed to the next steps.
- Add the shipping address
- Select "Lettermail" as your delivery.



There are more cards available online, and in more denominations, than the paper order form. If you want to order through the bulk order and don't see a store that you want cards for, talk to Sarah Armstrong.

You can avoid high shipping costs and the bother of having to sign for your package by ordering your cards in small batches so they can be sent in regular lettermail in normal envelopes.

Lettermail orders must be 4 cards or less, totally \$500 or less.

Using this option you may have to place multiple orders, but the savings are worth it.

You can pay by electronic funds transfer (by logging into your bank account online); by adding Fundscrip as a bill payment (they will provide an account number) or by credit card (the donation amount is reduced if you choose this method).

Sarah Armstrong is happy to help anytime! You can call or text 902-870-6519, email her at [sarahclaudette@gmail.com](mailto:sarahclaudette@gmail.com), or Facebook messenger @dazzled.by.the.beauty



## Thank You!

The congregation of St. James wishes our incredibly skilled organist, Hee-Jung Choi, and her family, much happiness in their new home of Halifax. Her renditions of well worn favourite hymns delighted our souls. Spouse Kenji Omae's accompaniment on saxophone was a highlight of many services. His beautiful work in putting together the online services over the pandemic ensured that we remained connected to each other while we were distancing to keep each other safe. It was our great pleasure to have the Omae-Choi family with us and look forward to their visits. Glen and Paul will have grown so much!



## Contemplating Earth

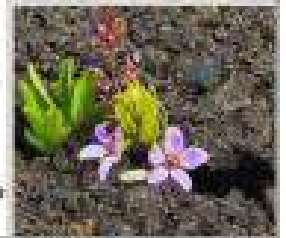
### ONLINE COURSE

The World Community for Christian Meditation is offering a 5-session online course over two-and-a-half weeks in May that aims to help raise our consciousness to feel united to all God's creation. It looks at where we are with this suffering planet and sees that we're in a unique time, a coming of age time.

#### The question is: Will we act wisely?

The cost of \$31 can be reimbursed by applying for support from the Spiritual Development Fund through the Church Office. The fruits of this course might see further efforts to support our environment.

Register by April 24, Earth Day Week by emailing [da-knees57@gmail.com](mailto:da-knees57@gmail.com) to receive a Zoom link to join the weekly sessions.



"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

- Martin Luther



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

Phone: (902) 863-2001 • Website: [www.stjamesuc.com](http://www.stjamesuc.com)

Email: [stjamesconnections@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesconnections@gmail.com)