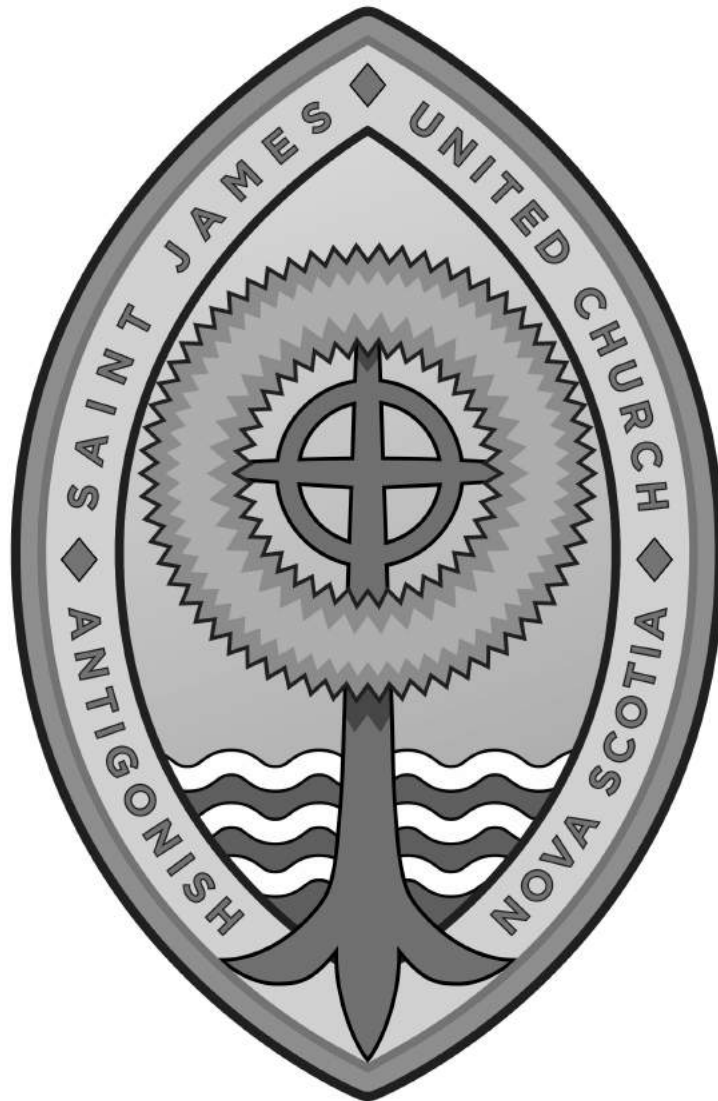


St. James United Church Annual Report



On the life of the congregation in 2023

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January 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last year was a time of renewal for St. James. I say that because we were finally able to move past the restrictions and fears of Covid and experience a year filled with the activities and gatherings that mean so much to us. We were finally able to and return to a more normal life of faith through things like holding the Holly Tea and Sale, continuing the Hot Meal Program through the summer months, and returning to passing the bread and cup during Holy Communion.

The pages of this annual report show how we lived as a church of Jesus Christ in 2023. The reports tell of the services held, the special events that brought us together, and the mission we lived out in Antigonish. The words tell of the faith we shared but most of all these reports tell of how we let the Holy Spirit guide us in this renewal.

Looking back over the last twelve months, there are many times and events for which to give thanks to God and there is also a strong foundation for us to move forward in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. So I would commend each and every report to you. Prayerfully consider this document which tells how God shaped us in the past year and how God calls us to a renewed faith in the year just starting.

Last year was also a time of renewal for me personally. Part of that was being able to go on sabbatical and spend time in prayer and study. Thanks to Rev. Doug, and all the committees and individuals who stepped forward to make that time possible for me. The truth is though that the renewal I felt last year happened not just for those months but continued when I returned to the pulpit because for the first time since the pandemic hit I found our life together filled with energy and joy each week.

May God continue to bless and renew us in 2024,

Yours In Christ's Service,

The Rev. Peter A Smith

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING February 26, 2023

Present: Rev. Doug Stewart, Minoli Amit, Dale Archibald, Sarah Armstrong, Michele Ashby, Chad Brazier, Joanne Clifton, Mike Cook, Pamela Cunningham, Carolyn Curry, Cathy Dulams, Hope Graham, Gerrit Groenenberg, Marlene Groenenberg, Alistair Hamilton, Michael Hentley, Joyce Hilling, Tim Hinds, Doug Hunter, Paige Hunter, Claire MacDonell, Jody MacDonald, Joan MacGillivray, May MacKenzie, Mary MacLean, Judi MacPherson, Liz Millett, Phyllis Morgan, Mavis Murray, Ken Penner, Linda Penner, Benjamin Polson, Bill Polson, Diane Polson, Jacob Polson, Wallace Polson, Joan Poole, Laura Reddick, Marjorie Sangster, Paul van de Wiel, Garret van de Wiel, Sally van de Wiel, Fran Wittgens.

Regrets: Fred Davison.

Hope Graham, chair, welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

Joan MacGillivray took the Minutes. A quorum was present.

Rev. Doug Stewart led the opening prayer.

Opening Motions

Moved by Sarah Armstrong, **seconded** by Bill Polson that non-members be given corresponding privileges. **Carried.**

Moved by Alistair Hamilton, **seconded** by Paul van de Wiel that corresponding members be given voting privileges. **Carried.**

Moved by Fran Wittgens, **seconded** by Liz Millet that the agenda be accepted as circulated. **Carried.**

Minutes of February 27, 2022

Moved by Joan MacGillivray, **seconded** by Michele Ashby that the Minutes of the February 27, 2022 Congregational Meeting be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

Annual Reports

Hope reviewed the Annual Reports. Mavis noted that the Seniors Fellowship Group has been discontinued and was not mentioned in the report.

Moved by Alistair Hamilton, **seconded** by Paul van de Wiel that the Annual Reports be accepted. The following reports were reviewed:

Minister's Letter, Worship Committee, Ministry of Music, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Membership and Pastoral Care, Christian Faith and Development, Finance and Stewardship, Trustees and Property, Outreach and Communication, Social Justice, Prayer Circle, Hot Meal Program, Region 15 Report, United Church Women, United Church Women Treasurer's Report, Prayer Shawl, Men's Club, St. James Gardeners, St. David's United Church Financial Report, Northern Nova Scotia Foundation.

Carried

Financial Statements and Budget

Pam noted the Compilation Engagement Report and gave an update noting the steps in place to ensure that the information is correct. She also noted the increases in salaries.

Moved by Pam Cunningham, **seconded** by Garret van de Wiel that the Financial Statements for 2022 be accepted as printed. **Carried**

Moved by Pam Cunningham, **seconded** by Minoli Amit that the Budget for 2023 be adopted as printed.
Carried.

Moved by Pam Cunningham, **seconded** by Judi MacPherson that the Mission and Service goal for 2023 be \$20,000. **Carried.**

Nominations

Changes to the Council Members report were noted. Mike Cook will be a member of Church Council and Mike Cook is also a Congregational Trustee.

Moved by Minoli Amit, **seconded** by May MacKenzie to accept the Nominations Report as corrected.
Carried.

New Business

Michele Ashby and Tim Hinds introduced discussion on an Emergency Warming Centre. It was noted that while St. James would not be able to become a Warming Centre because it doesn't have a generator or the space, St. James could help with volunteers. Tim and Michele will continue to work on this including opportunities for St. James to volunteer.

Adjournment

Hope thanked everyone for their attendance.

Rev. Doug closed the meeting in prayer at 1:02 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

HELEN "JEAN" BARKHOUSE

WILLIAM HALL "BILL" BUCKLEY

STEPHEN ROY PELLEY

DEBORAH ANN MACINNIS

MURIEL ALICE KENNEDY

MARGARET MARY TURNER

MARTIN WAYNE REDDICK

HERBERT SINCLAIR RANDALL

BRIAN D. MACLEOD

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This year began with committees and individuals leading services during the months of the minister's sabbatical. Thanks to everyone who shared their gifts from the choir, finance and stewardship, UCW, and social justice committee. Thanks also to Michèle Ashby, Joan MacGillivray and Rev. Doug Stewart for the Sundays they led the service.

Palm Sunday saw Rev. Peter's return to the pulpit and there were special services through Holy Week as well as our Easter Sunrise and Easter Sunday service. All the services were well attended and special thanks to those who made the early morning breakfast possible.

Summer saw a continuation of normal services at St. David's as well as the combined Highland Games Service which included a large number of members of the Antigonish Highland Society in attendance. Thanks to Andrew Murray who always ensures the sanctuary is decorated with tartans.

This fall saw us move from using the pre-filled communion cups to teams preparing and distributing the elements to the congregation. We also returned to having lay readers taking part in the weekly worship. Thanks to the members of the worship committee for the behind the scenes work necessary to make those parts of the service happen.

The sanctuary windows were decorated for Thanksgiving and showed again the bounty of blessings we enjoy in our lives. On Remembrance Sunday we welcomed members of Arras Branch 59 to our worship as well as their families and interest people from the community. Members of the worship committee and the congregation helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and our busy Christmas Eve services. Thanks to all who contributed their gifts to make those special services possible.

The year was filled with a return to a normal pattern of worship from before Covid even as we continue to offer the online service each week. Thanks to Nick Davie for his taping and editing and to Paul and Jonathan Davie who help in his absence.

Respectively submitted,
Rev. Peter Smith

MINISTRY OF MUSIC REPORT
Senior Choir Report

St. James Choir has had a good year overall. We are led by Carolyn Curry, and have a solid group of about 20 voices. Practices happen at 7 pm on Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary. New members are always welcome!

As several members of the choir also serve as communion servers and board members, we were quite active in various services (Remembrance day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and both Christmas eve services).

For Preludes and Postludes we had several services where solos were done by Carolyn or other members of the choir, as well as some guest solos by either Amy Hendricks, or some of Carolyn's students. The Guitar group and the Bell group also lent their musical talents for some services as well. The new year will see practices begin again on the 9th of January.

Respectively submitted,
Alistair Hamilton

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Annual Report
2023

Members of the Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee are: Tim Hinds, Doug Hunter, Liz Millett (Chair), Linda MacDougall Penner, Gina Sampson and Heather Scott. Thank you to Bronwen Cooke who resigned from the committee this year, following several years of dedicated service. The M&P Committee met three times during 2023.

Rev Peter Smith returned to his regular duties on March 27, 2023 after a three month sabbatical. St. James has been blessed to have the leadership of Rev. Peter. After three challenging years of adapting to Covid restrictions, it was important that we were able to provide this time away for him to study and rejuvenate. Thank you to Rev. Doug Stewart and several others who provided service for this three month period.

Patsy Farrell, our secretary since 2018, notified us of her plan to retire in June. We were sad to see Patsy leave our staff, but are very happy for her in her retirement. In September, we welcomed Barb Shea, who has transitioned very well to the position.

As is usual practice, we met with each staff member at the end of the year and provided them with a summary review letter in follow up.

In 2019, M&P 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). In 2023, the living wage for Antigonish area was \$24.30/hour (a jump of \$4.00/hr from the previous year). The plan considered a gradual implementation, over a period of five years, as finances permit. The proposed increases were over and above the annual cost of living adjustment.

Thus far, the Congregation has affirmed the increase for the first four years of the plan. M&P proposes a motion this year that increases for the final year of the plan be approved. While staff salaries still fall short of the living wage (\$2.00-\$4.00/hr lower), we are thankful that the congregation has supported the increases over the years, bringing staff salaries much closer to this target.

We are most fortunate to have very capable and dedicated employees and we truly value their contribution and efforts and extend our sincere thanks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Millett

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

For 2023 the following were presented and accepted for Baptism:

Annie Geneva Ryan, child of Eric and Meagan Ryan

For 2023 the following were presented and accepted for Marriage:

Brian Douglas MacLeod and Catherine Ann Sinclair,

Candice Beth MacKenzie and Derek Craig Druhan

Timothy William MacPherson and Hilary Ann Taylor

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Peter Smith

CHRISTIAN FAITH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This past year saw a more normal pattern of Children's worship on Sunday. Most weeks we have a good collection of young people who take part in both our children's time and some of the teens have begun to assist in the leadership and in helping with the younger children.

Thanks to May MacKenzie for continuing to lead our Children's Worship and to all the adults and teens for sharing their gifts with the young people.

This fall there was a four week Bible Study which was well received. There are plans for a Lenten Study next spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Peter

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 2023 was more like a year we were used to as a congregation – no restrictions to Covid 19 and no destructive hurricanes. Worship services and activities proceeded as normal. One of the highlights of the year was the repair of St James's beautiful steeple. Our church and our steeple are one of the beautiful landmarks on Main Street and in fact in our town.

During 2023 we were able to meet as a committee on 4 occasions, including the months of January, March, May and September. We did not meet formally in November. We presented a report at each Church Council meeting outlining the committee activities. Following each in person service, committee members counted and deposited the weekly collection. For the second year in a row since Covid 19 surfaced, the Finance and Stewardship committee was able to organize the Stump Frolic, the event was enjoyed by all and a financial success raising \$ 3,683.

The un-reviewed financial results for 2023 indicate we will end up in a breakeven position again this year. This is very good news as again at the end of September we were facing a deficit of \$ 38,346 slightly more than the September deficit in 2022 of \$ 36,160. As in the past, the congregation responded to the need for additional financial resources with our Fall Appeal Campaign contributing \$ 27,310. Our committee wants to thank all who contributed to the campaign. In addition to a strong Fall Appeal Campaign, St James again was the beneficiary of very generous December donations. At the end of the day, givings and donations for 2023 were \$ 19,846 over 2022 and in line with our 2023 forecast.

At year's end, the number of participants on PAR stood at 88. Without the congregation's givings through PAR, it would almost be impossible to pay the weekly expenses of our Church. The Pre-Authorized Receipts (PAR) system provides a predictable, easily accounted for and uninterrupted source of revenue. If you are currently on PAR and wish to update your monthly givings at anytime, please contact the church office. 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 2024. Also, we wish to remind members that electronic donations to St. James are possible through e-transfer eft@stjamesuc.com and Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/>. The office door slot is also a convenient way to drop off your donation if you are downtown. For assistance, please contact the church office or Pamela, our Treasurer.

We surpassed our \$20,000 goal for Mission and Service. Total donations to Mission and Service were \$ 22,591.

Costs related to the steeple repair was funded by our General Fund, our Building Fund and the residual coming from our Unrestricted Equity from our investments.

The 2024 budget was reviewed with the Treasurer prior to its presentation to council in early January. To meet our expected 2024 expenses, our budgeted revenues will require an increase of approximately 6.5 % or \$ 15,823 over last year's revenue.

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
Rev. Peter Smith
Robert Smith

Isabel Tate
Joanne Clifton

Pamela Cunningham - Church Treasurer

TRUSTEES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The main focus for 2023 was the exterior work on the steeple. The structural reinforcement on the interior was completed in 2022.

The work was concentrated in the bell area, which is the lower section of the steeple. The eight louvers and all siding, fascia and trims were at the end of their serviceable life and were replaced with a PVC product. This product is inherently white and does not require painting.

In mid-September, the bell area was stripped down to the eight 8x8 structural timbers supporting the steeple. The steeple passed the structural test of post-Hurricane Lee, testing the steeple in its exposed condition.

The roofing below the bell in the bell chamber and the area outside surrounding the louvers was replaced. With the structural work completed earlier, we now have a steeple which will be structurally sound and waterproof for years. The upper steeple was power washed while the 80 ft boom lift was on site.

The last remaining piece of the work is the installation of the finials, rebuilt by a team of craftsmen led by Brian MacLeod. Brian has now left us but his finials will stand for years to come as one of numerous examples of Brian supporting St. James. They will be installed this spring.

The contractors also completed a seamless repair of the ceiling in the Sanctuary. Our thanks go out to Tate Construction for their excellent work on the total project.

The trustees would also like to thank Patsy Farrell and Barb Shea in the church office and custodian Chad Brazier for their work looking after St. James.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Archibald, Chair

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

The O & C Committee saw continuity in some areas and new direction in others. The smooth production and distribution of the Connections newsletter on a quarterly basis has meant that our readers get treated to varied and interesting pieces, reflecting our church community. We are aiming to insure that copies get into the hands of those who don't get to St James.

We welcome you readers to pick up one or two extras and/or share your copy with somebody else who'd be interested. The quarterly publication comes out mid March, late June, mid October and mid December. There is an electronic form that can be seen on the website. Some are delivered to shut ins.

When Council met in May, 2023, there was discussion around new attendees and those we haven't seen for awhile and how to meet their needs. A couple of choir members and two in the congregation were asked to be aware of any new faces. We ask this of all our congregation, that we are there to welcome those visiting or trying us out. We are in discussion about creating a Newcomer's Packet that would have helpful information about how St James works and what are opportunities. A Newcomer's Card is in process now which would also be a simple aid.

Outreach held an Info Fair on October 22nd after the church service. The objective was to display and encourage interest in the activities and work of the different groups. Besides the expected groups, there were also tables for the Meditation group and Cultural Connections. A table was set up to highlight the Gaza/Israel crisis. A favourite hymn feature at the Choir table drew participation. Of course the snacks at every table helped hold the crowd. There was a steady stream of browsers that marked this event as a success.

Other: We bade goodbye to Barbara DeMarsh before summer and welcomed Fred and Sheila Davison. Linda Darwish came on as an informal link with StFX.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Wittgens

Committee Members: Fred Davison, Sheila Davison, Joan MacGillivray, Glenna Quinn, Rev. Peter Smith and Fran Wittgens

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Work was easier for this committee in the more or less “post-pandemic” climate. Although we lost several stalwart members and always welcome new folks and ideas. Two *Adopt-A-Highway* clean ups took place in the spring and fall with ten participants for each collecting over 20 large bags of trash. Monthly *Minutes for Social Justice* from the pulpit recommenced with much welcome input from Anne Camozzi. An Earth Day Service was held in April. We produced the *Social Justice Calendar*; provided articles for *Connections*, and bulletin announcements on relevant topics. We revamped, produced and encouraged use of the *Antigonish Gift Book* whereby people give charitable donations to local front line poverty organizations in lieu of “things” to those who already have everything they need. We must recognize the generous support of *Staples*, who provide free printing for that project. Members attended multiple events, signed petitions and wrote letters as appropriate. Some continue to periodically support the *Fridays for Climate Change* demonstrations held weekly at noon hour outside the Town Hall. And new this year, (and unfortunately much needed), some of us were motivated to organize (big thanks to Sarah Armstrong, Chad Brazier and Linda Darwish), support, and attend rallies in support of Palestine that were held weekly outside the Town Hall and/or the Farmers’ Market. We continue to search for ways to reach out in reconciliation with our First Nations neighbours, although finding a contact or liaison at Paq’tnekek has proved to be problematic. We will continue to educate ourselves and hopefully 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. For more information, please contact any of our current members: Sarah Armstrong, Michèle Ashby, Christine Briand, Anne Camozzi, Linda Darwish, Hope Graham or Joan MacGillivray.

PRAYER CIRCLE

The Prayer Circle is a small group who pray individually and privately for those who have requested prayer for themselves, friends or acquaintances; or for specific issues. We stay in touch via email and phone calls. We continue to experience busy and slow periods. But we prayed whenever requested to do so for assorted people and situations throughout the year, and will continue this calling in 2024. New members will always be welcome. Please let Michèle Ashby know of your interest. (902) 232-3473

HOT MEAL PROGRAM

The Covid hiatus was finally over and in January of 2023, the Hot Meal Program began once again serving two meals a week, on Tuesday and Thursdays. There are ten (10) teams participating so it means each group serves a meal every five (5) weeks, weather permitting. Each week it was noticed that one or two new people were starting to attend for a meal on a regular basis. Attendance by December averaged 35ish daily with at least ten take out meals.

Normally, in June we wrap it up for the summer months but this year several of the teams decided that they would continue on Thursdays with a meal for the summer. There were very few weeks that all the seats were not taken. Many thanks to those who stayed throughout the summer. It also gave the opportunity to change up the menu for lighter fare instead of the warming tummy meals of winter.

Once again, the team from the RCMP hosted our Hot Meal Christmas dinner on December 21, 2023. Turkey and all the trimmings and small gifts abounded with a full house attending. They were helped out by The Knights of Columbus which made the whole experience an event of kindness, compatibility and good cheer.

Lasagne, spaghetti, Shepherds pie, pork lion, hamburger with gravy, loads of veggies, soups and casseroles, homemade biscuits and desserts such as gingerbread with sauce, pie, cakes and cookies, puddings and ice cream were some of the meals that fed over a thousand people last year. This is all able to be done due to the volunteers who shop, make the meals, clean up and from those who give monetary gifts to allow this program to continue.

There is always a place for anyone willing to help out in any capacity. Our meals not only provide nourishment for the body but also for the soul with social interaction and giving everyone the chance to be a part of something warm and caring. Thank you to all.

Respectively submitted,
Pamela Cunningham

REGION 15 REPORT

The Regional Council met in Halifax at Mount St. Vincent University the weekend of June 9-11 with the theme of Discipleship. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church was the theme speaker. Michael gave 2 memorable and thought provoking presentations on Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice. He talked about the future of the United Church, where it will go and our need to lead with boldness as unapologetic Christians who follow Jesus through discipleship.

The business part of the meeting included reviewing and voting on the proposals including becoming an Affirming Ministry ensuring that all are welcome. Our Region also became Bermuda, Nova Scotia Regional Council.

The Region voted unanimously in favour of amending the Basis of Union to establish an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.

Presentations included the EcoJustice Working Group reviewing the commitments of the United Church to reduce our carbon emission 80% by 2030. There was also a workshop on Churches addressing the Climate Emergency in Nova Scotia.

Another workshop I attended was Breaking the Silence and how the United Church has been working since the 70s to help the Mayan and Indigenous people of Guatemala who have been pushed from their lands by palm oil producers.

The meeting concluded on Sunday after the worship service that included an ordination, recognition of a Designated Lay Minister and the installation of the new president of the Bermuda, Nova Scotia Regional Council.

Respectively Submitted
Joan MacGillivray

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

The UCW has continued through 2023. We are one general group holding meetings five to six times a year.

In April we held a Daffodil Tea. Our spring event is always well received and will continue to be an annual event.

As we paused for summer, with a dinner at Gabrielle's, we were fortunate to have Dr Rideout and Maria van Vondren present to discuss their work with A Partnership in Caring. APIC is a volunteer organization comprised of health professionals at St Martha's working with the Butare University Teaching Hospital in Rwanda, Africa.

In July one member attended the National UCM 60th Anniversary Event held in Sydney Cape Breton. The theme for the five day event was "Continuing in Hope". We were pleased to hear from Michèle Ashby of the prayer and information sessions, of the various speakers, of friendships grown and of the wonderful work being done by UCW across the country. The next National Anniversary Event is 2028.

We were fortunate to have Andrew Murray speak to us before one of our meetings, about the creation and meaning of the mural in the church.

We held a fundraiser for Roof Over Our Heads, an Antigonish county initiative to address the crisis of homelessness and under-homed individuals in our community.

We also returned to the running of the Holly Tea and Sale for the first time in three years. Despite initial challenges of donations and volunteer scheduling, this picked up closer to the date. We saw fewer members of the public attend however, with the increased price for tea and generous spirits, we raised over \$5000.00.

We also celebrated with a catered luncheon to pause for Christmas.

We are grateful to support one another through illness, injury and grief, but were saddened by the loss of long time member Jean Barkhouse this year.

In 2024 we look forward to continued learning and laughing together through our regular work, and the excitement of hosting the Maritime UCW conference in April, 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Briand

**St. James United Church Women
Income Statement 2023**

Opening Balance		\$2294.99
January 1		
<u>Income</u>		
Funerals	\$2160.00	
BCE	\$970.90	
Dues	\$469.00	
Daffodil Tea	\$1071.86	
Holly Tea	\$5055.91	
Calendars	\$190.00	
Donations	\$462.95	
Total Income		\$10380.62
<u>Expenses</u>		
Supplies	\$293.45	
Donations	\$5048.94	
Bank fees	\$48.00	
M&S	\$3800.00	
Conference dues	\$224.00	
Petty cash fund	\$152.00	
Gifts	\$109.00	
Guest speaker	\$25.00	
Calendars	\$155.04	
Total expenses		\$9855.43
		\$525.19
Balance December 31		\$2820.18

Donations include - St. James, St. James Memorial Fund, A Roof Over Your Head

**Dr.J.H.Gillis High School Bursary, Remembrance Day
Wreath**

PRAYER SHAWL COMMITTEE

The year 2023 was a difficult one for the Ministry in that when we planned for a meeting, several times we had to cancel due to weather conditions or members being ill. However the work of the Ministry carried on. Ten new shawls were made. Fewer than usual as we started the year with a large inventory, and we gave out seventeen shawls. One of our members has had to leave the group due to illness and we miss her and appreciate the many, many shawls she made and the support she gave to the Ministry.

As we enter the thirteenth year of the Ministry, we ask for your continued support which you have given to this work. Please let us know when you hear of someone who might benefit from receiving a shawl or lap robe.

Respectfully submitted

Mavis Murray

ST. JAMES GARDENERS

We church Gardeners of St.James thank folks for your kind comments of the beauty of the pioneer cemetery and grounds surrounding the church. Although we had a very dry spring and super wet summer, that dampness made it easier tending to the beds. The weeds are much easier to pull, haha. We have planted bulbs for flowering in spring 2024, looking forward to those bursts of colour. With Chad Brazier's mowing; the grass tends to frame the perennials/trees as pictures in the landscape. We always welcome new plants and bulbs(some come from "Ole Stump Frolic"). Thanks from Marlene and Gerrit Groenenberg, Liz Millet and Mike Cook, Diane Theuerkauf, Andrew Murray.

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023

REVENUE

Balance in Chequing Account January 01/2023	\$25,316.05
Sunday Offerings	788.80
Church Envelopes	3,630.00
Memorial Donations	1,425.00
Sold-Double Burial Plot	350.00
Donations to St. David's	1,225.00
Cheque from St. James to St. David's	6,300.00
GIC 1 Year Term Investment Transferred to Chequing Account	4,035.86
Total	\$ 43,070.71

EXPENDITURES

Cheque to St. James - 2023 Tax Receipts	6,280.00
Church Roof Repairs	9,545.00
Fire & Commercial General Liability Insurance	902.00
Municipal Fire Rate	98.25
Electricity	226.54
Organist	850.00
Mowing Church Grounds	1,530.00
Cleaning Church Grounds-Tree & Bush Trimming	680.00
Ministerial Supply	750.00
Gift	100.00
Bank Charges	200.16
Total	\$21,161.95

CHEQUING ACCOUNT

Balance in Bank, January 01,2023	\$ 25,316.05
Principle Balance - GIC 1 Year Term Investment Transferred to Cheq. Acc.	3,878.77
Bank Interest	157.09
Closing Value - GIC Investment	\$4,035.86
Balance in Bank January 01,2024	\$ 21,908.76

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance in Bank January 01,2023	10,617.50
Bank Interest	7.42
Balance in Bank Jan. 01,2024	\$10,624.92
GIC TERM-2 YEAR INVESTMENT	6,885.13
Interest	25.81
Balance, January 01, 2024	\$6,910.94

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.

This past year the trustees focused on communication with the guidance counsellors to ensure information was available to as many graduates as possible about the scholarships. A poster with a QR code advertising the scholarship was sent in January followed up by an email to guidance counsellors in March. Those efforts resulted in a record number of applications by graduates.

After careful consideration of the applications and available funds, the Foundation awarded 39 entrance scholarships of \$2000 in 2023. This means that since 2020 the Foundation has offered 116 scholarships to graduates worth \$171,000. The money distributed comes from investment income generated through the endowment with a market value of \$1,330,395.70

The trustees continue to hold Dr. Stewart's endowment with the East Coast Credit Union and have implemented a long term strategy for investing the money in our care. In the coming year, the trustees look forward to continuing Dr. Stewart's vision of helping students in northeastern Nova Scotia attend university.

Respectfully Submitted,
Iain Boyd
Mary Anne MacDonald
Rev. Peter Smith

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH - BUDGET 2024

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	UNREVIEWED		
	<u>BUDGET 2024</u>	<u>AS OF 31-12-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET 2023</u>
<u>MINISTRY</u>			
SALARY	84,995	77,802	75,646
TRAVEL	1,000	903	1,000
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,640	361	1,543
ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	10,177	10,112	9,707
PULPIT SUPPLY	1,976	7,192	1,800
SABBATICAL SUPPLY	-	-	6,264
SABBATICAL RECOVERY	-	(10,500)	(6,264)
	<u>99,788</u>	<u>85,870</u>	<u>89,696</u>
<u>CHRISTIAN FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT</u>			
CF&D DIRECTOR	7,624	7,263	6,984
SS MATERIAL	300	122	500
	<u>7,974</u>	<u>7,385</u>	<u>7,484</u>
<u>MUSIC / WORSHIP MINISTRY</u>			
WAGES, ORGANIST	24,453	23,558	23,558
ORGANIST SUPPLY & GUESTS	800	530	800
TRANSFER TO MUSIC FUND	250	250	250
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE	400	245	400
WORSHIP	1,500	1,214	1,500
	<u>27,403</u>	<u>25,797</u>	<u>26,508</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			
WAGES, SECRETARY	17,943	16,465	16,465
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	10,000	9,887	9,250
PENSION& GROUP INSURANCE	26,000	25,268	25,000
SALARIES AND WAGES, ACCRUED		-	
TREASURER HONORARIUM	4,780	4,397	4,397
INSURANCE CHURCH	7,584	8,191	7,561
PHOTOCOPIER	350	211	350
OFFICE SUPPLIES	650	1,539	650
POSTAGE	750	477	850
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	3,500	3,163	3,500
INTEREST & BANK CHARGES	1,900	1,860	1,750
GIFTS	600	537	650
STAFF EDUCATION	500		500
PAYROLL EXPENSES	1,250	1,175	925
FIRE LEVY	250	234	250
MISCELLANEOUS		-	
	<u>76,057</u>	<u>73,404</u>	<u>72,098</u>

	UNREVIEWED		
	AS OF		
	<u>BUDGET 2024</u>	<u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET 2023</u>
<u>CHURCH MAINTENANCE & OPERATION</u>			
WAGES, CUSTODIAN	22,849	21,008	21,008
CUSTODIAN SUPPLY	880	727	800
HEATING OIL	15,600	14,582	19,000
ELECTRICITY	7,900	7,757	7,000
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	2,500	2,251	1,800
WATER & SEWER	500	492	500
SUPPLIES	1,200	1,026	1,500
GARBAGE REMOVAL	1,920	2,555	2,000
SNOW CLEARING & SALTING	400	54	500
ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE	1,800	1,299	1,800
Ch Maint & Op Recovery (HM)		(900)	-
	<u>55,549</u>	<u>50,851</u>	<u>55,908</u>
<u>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & HOSPITALITY</u>			
EXPENSES	300	144	300
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	500	569	
HOT MEAL EXPENSES	-	0	
HOT MEAL DONATIONS (NO RECEIPT)	-	0	
HOT MEAL DONATIONS	-	0	
TRANSFER IN - H.M. FUND	-	0	
	<u>800</u>	<u>713</u>	<u>300</u>
<u>OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS</u>			
EXPENSES	500	197	500
ST. DAVIDS PROJECT	2,000	6,300	2,000
AST DONATION	500	500	500
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>6,997</u>	<u>3,000</u>
<u>FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</u>			
ENVELOPES	400	396	550
MISSION & SERVICE SUNDAY	200	-	200
	<u>600</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>750</u>
<u>MISSION AND SERVICE</u>			
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>22,591</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>22,591</u>	<u>20,000</u>

ST.JAMES UNITED CHURCH BUDGET 2024

	<u>BUDGET 2024</u>	UNREVIEWED AS OF <u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>BUDGET 2023</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>			
CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS	239,171	201,687	227,744
DONATIONS	6,000	8,580	4,000
FALL APPEAL	15,000	27,310	15,000
FUND RAISING	6,000	5,594	4,000
UCW DONATIONS		4,130	
SHARES DONATED		2,886	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>266,171</u>	<u>250,187</u>	<u>250,744</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
MINISTRY	99,788	85,870	89,696
CHRISTIAN FAITH & DEVELOPMENT	7,974	7,385	7,484
MUSIC/WORSHIP MINISTRY	27,403	25,797	26,508
ADMINISTRATION	76,057	73,404	72,098
CHURCH M&O	55,549	50,851	55,908
CONG LIFE & HOSPITALITY	800	713	300
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION	3,000	6,997	3,000
FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP	600	396	750
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>271,171</u>	<u>251,413</u>	<u>255,744</u>
<u>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$ (5,000)</u>	<u>\$ (1,227)</u>	<u>\$ (5,000)</u>
TRANSFER FROM (TO) INVESTMENT FUND	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u> </u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ (1,227)</u>	<u> </u>