

# St. James United Church Annual Report



*On the life of the congregation in 2024*

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*God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.*  
-Micah 6:8

January 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm thankful when I read this year's Annual Report. For among the summaries of events and activities, among the thanks to individuals and groups, and among the people who have joined us and those we said good-bye to in the year just past, is the grace and love, the mercy and hope which we felt and shared with each other and the world. I'm thankful because each report is a witness to our faith and life in 2024.

So as you read this report please notice the work and activities we undertook as we marked 220 years as a congregation and sought to be a faithful witness to Christ in the world. Look back with me in thanks for the things we were able to do and be for each other and the wider community. For God was with us in our gatherings and outreach as well as our worship and our meetings.

Then join me in looking forward to the year now unfolding so that we can answer the call of the Spirit to do more and be more as God's people in the world. For we have a rich history behind us, which now includes the year mentioned in this report, and I believe ahead is even more for us as a congregation and as individuals. May God continue to bless who we are and what we do in faith,

Yours In Christ's Service,

The Rev. Peter A. Smith

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING February 25, 2024

**Present:** Rev. Peter Smith, Catherine Adams, Minoli Amit, Dale Archibald, Michele Ashby, Christine Briand, Joanne Clifton, Mike Cook, Pamela Cunningham, Clayton Bigelow, Carolyn Curry, Paul Davies, Hope Graham, Alistair Hamilton, John Hamilton, Tim Hinds, Claire MacDonell, Joan MacGillivray, Carol MacIntosh, Joanne MacKenzie, May MacKenzie, Judi MacPherson, Liz Millett, Laura Reddick, Shaun Scott, Barbara Smith, Doreen Smith, Robert Smith, Isabel Tate, Paul van de Wiel, Sally van de Wiel, Selena Wang, Fran Wittgens.

**Regrets:** Fred Davison, Sheila Davison.

Rev. Peter Smith called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. and opened with prayer. Hope Graham chaired the meeting and welcomed all. Joan MacGillivray took the Minutes.

**Moved** by Tim Hinds, **seconded** by May MacKenzie that non-members be given corresponding privileges. **Carried.**

**Moved** by Michele Ashby, **seconded** by Dale Archibald that corresponding members be given voting privileges. **Carried.**

By consent, the agenda was accepted as circulated.

#### **2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**Moved** by Alistair Hamilton, **seconded** by Isabel Tate that the Minutes of the February 26, 2023 Congregational Meeting be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

#### **Annual Reports**

The Committee Annual Reports were reviewed with the following comments:

- Liz Millett noted in the Ministry and Personnel Committee Report that we are now in the 5th year of the living wage for staff and thanked the congregation for their support.
- Membership and Pastoral Care - there was a correction of the spelling of Candace's name. Candace Beth MacKenzie.
- Christian Faith & Development Committee - Rev. Peter thanked May MacKenzie and all who have helped for their work.
- Trustees and Property Committee - Rev. Peter thanked Dale Archibald for the work done on the steeple.

**Moved** by Minoli Amit, **seconded** by Mike Cook that the Annual Reports be accepted as circulated.

- 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
- St. James Gardeners
- St. David's United Church Financial Report
- Northern Nova Scotia Foundation

**Carried.**

### **Financial Statements and Budget**

Pam presented the Financial Statements and Budget and noted the shortfall of \$38,000 in the fall and how the congregation helped with only a deficit of \$2,040 at year end. The \$136,000 for the steeple was from the Investment Fund, Donations and the Building Fund. Two bequests were given to the church which helped as well. She noted that electricity costs have greatly increased as have oil costs and thanked Loosen MacIntosh for their work in preparing the Financial Statements.

**Moved** by Pam Cunningham, **seconded** by Robert Smith that the Financial Statements for 2023 be accepted as printed. **Carried**

**Carried.**

Pam noted the recommendation from the United Church National Office that a cost of living increase of 6.3% be given to all employees which has been included in the budget.

**Moved** by Pam Cunningham, **seconded** by Fran Wittgens that the Budget for 2024 be adopted as printed. **Carried.**

**Moved** by Pam Cunningham, **seconded** by Joanne MacKenzie that the Mission and Service goal for 2024 be \$20,000. **Carried.**

### **Nominations**

Rev. Peter presented the report and noted the new people who will be joining Church Council. The asterisks in the report are people who are serving a second term.

**Moved** by John Hamiton, **seconded** by Liz Millett to accept the Nominating Committee Report. **Carried.**

### **Adjournment**

Rev. Peter thanked all the congregation for their contributions to St. James. He thanked Caroline for the music, Chad for the work he does in the church, and Patsy and Barb for the work in the office.

John Hamilton thanked Rev. Peter, on behalf of St. James, for all his work and he also thanked Pam for her work as Treasurer.

Hope adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m. and Rev. Peter closed in prayer.

**IN MEMORIAM**

MARY ELIZABETH MACLEAN

ALICE CAMERON BAXTER

EDITH WILLENA WILLIAMS

EVELYN WILLENA SMITH

BONNIE HEATHER MACPHEE

PHILIP EARL WILLIAMS

HUGH ALLAN MACLEOD

MARILYN ARLENE MACNEIL

CATHERINE ANN MACDONALD

ALLISTER HERBERT SMITH

REV. DOUGLAS ALLAN STEWART

PEARL LORELLA JORDAN

LAWRENCE MURPHY MACKENZIE

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This past year was filled with memorable and meaningful worship services. We were blessed to have people willing to share their gifts in the service by reading scripture, sharing the Minute for Mission and Minute for Social Justice, and by singing or playing special music. We were also blessed when committees and individuals stepped forward to lead services when I had to be away.

We held a special service to mark African Heritage Month as well as our usual Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Thanks to those who made the early morning breakfast possible after the Easter sunrise service.

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. Thanks to Michèle Ashby, Ida Sarty, and Garrett van de wiel who led our services during the minister's holidays.

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 of the Royal Canadian Legion to our worship as well as their families and interest people from the community.

We welcomed Rev. Meredith Fraser who preached at our 220<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and held an Anniversary Hymn Sing on the evening before.

Members of the worship committee and the congregation helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and our busy Christmas Eve services. We welcomed friends from St. Paul's Anglican Church again this Advent for a combined service and enjoyed good crowds at all of our Christmas Eve services. Thanks to all who contributed their gifts to make those special services possible.

Our online service continues to be an important ministry of the church which connects us to those unable to attend in person. Thanks to Vic Davie for taping and editing the service and to Paul and Jonathan Davie who help in her absence.

Respectively submitted,  
Rev. Peter Smith

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC REPORT

Music Ministry has had another rich and fulfilling year of music. In March of 2024, issues with the organ led to connecting with Dave Garber in New Brunswick regarding options for repair. We were very fortunate in that he was able to repair a damaged part himself rather than requiring it be sent away to the United States, providing us with the most economic option for repair. Included with the repair was the purchase of a surge-protected power bar which should protect the organ from similar damage in the future.

In May we had another installment of Youth Choir. Hosting rehearsal shortly after Sunday service improved turnout compared to the year prior. The Youth choir performed a piece in Gaelic courtesy the help of Catrina Parsons, commemorating Gaelic awareness month in Nova Scotia, as well as a piece alongside the Senior Choir. I was unable to host a fall installment for 2024, however I look forward to creating this opportunity again as it was well received, and I have new offers of support.

In October, St James hosted a Hymn Sing to commemorate our 220th Anniversary. Many thanks to the choir and all the soloists for this song-filled evening. We look forward to another at our next milestone. In December Chad Brazier and Sarah Armstrong hosted a Carol Sing. This event brought in new and familiar faces alike and was a lovely opportunity for community to sing their favorite Christmas songs together; we hope to see it return.

We were blessed to have numerous guest musicians from the community and campus, as well as the soloists from our own congregation. Many thanks to Campbell Hayman & Kennedy Atwater, April Martell, Carter Todd, Melissa Kuipers, Wavey Middleton, Guitar Group (Tara Nicholson & Wendy MacCaul), Fred Davison & Brass United, and all members of the choir for sharing their gifts.

A special thanks to Amy Hendricks and Sheila Davison for their numerous roles and support to our music and worship.

Carolyn Curry



## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Members of the Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee are: Tim Hinds, Doug Hunter, Liz Millett (Chair), Linda MacDougall Penner, Gina Sampson and Heather Scott. The M&P Committee met four times as a whole during 2024 with several smaller issue-specific meetings throughout the year.

This past year, with input from Chad Brazier, our committee has been examining custodian hours and responsibilities. As a result of the very busy schedule at the church, it is difficult to ensure that the position of Custodian has a regular day off, as other positions do, and therefore work-life balance is challenging. By working with the office and Rev. Peter, it was determined that efforts would be made to not book activities on Monday which required the custodian to allow him to have a dedicated day off. The custodian job description has been reviewed and some changes will be made.

Our chair met with the Property and Trustees Committee to discuss the custodian role as well as some proposed changes to the hall and kitchen rental contract.

Wedding and funeral honorariums for the minister, organist and custodian were reviewed and standardized.

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.

It is important to recognize that Rev Peter does not have supply ministers available for coverage as he once did with Rev Doug Stewart and others. M&P acknowledges the additional workload for Rev Peter as he helps to prepare services for others to lead when he is absent. This is a worrisome situation if it continues into the long term. Thanks to Rev Peter and to those individuals and groups who have stepped up when he has been away.

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**

In 2024 the following were presented and accepted for Baptism:

Laney Lee Deon, child of Megan and Curtis Deon  
Theodore James Chisholm child of Kim Whitmee and Kale Chisholm  
Faye Winifred Whitmee child of Laura Arsenault and Mark Whitmee  
Elijah Adamson Scott child of Jenn and Adam Scott  
Milo Neveu Messier child of Robyn Michelle Scott and Vincent Neveu Messier  
Marcus James Demers child of Jennifer and Chris Demers  
Clara Charlotte Demers child of Jennifer and Chris Demers  
Theodore Perry Laureijs child of Tessa and Peter Laureijs  
Luna Sherilynn Jean MacPherson, child of June Hart and Kale MacPherson

For 2024 the following were presented and accepted for Marriage:

Frederick Newell and Katherine Leighton  
Stephen Decoste and Julie Ann MacDonald  
Trina Ann Connie Robar and Kevin James Cameron  
Madison Alice Marie Vidito and Donald Frances Gurney

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Peter Smith

## **CHRISTIAN FAITH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

This past year Children's worship continued to be an important part of our worship life on Sunday. Most weeks we had a good number of young people who took part in both our children's time and the program upstairs. We continue to be blessed by the teens who 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.

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.

During 2024 we were able to meet as a committee on five occasions: the months of January, March, May, September and November. We presented a report at each Church Council meeting outlining committee activities. Following each Church service, committee members counted and deposited the weekly collection. As other years, the Finance and Stewardship Committee organized the Stump Frolic, the event was enjoyed by all and a financial success raising \$ 5,553. As well, members of our committee shared Minute for Mission stories twice a month during our weekly Church service.

The un-reviewed financial results for 2024 indicate St James finished the year in a small deficit position ( \$ 3,949). As some know, early in the fall we were starting at a deficit of (\$ 61,065). St James is truly blessed to have a congregation who responds in such a generous fashion coming close to erasing the huge deficit we were facing at the end of September – thank you. It is worth noting, the Fall Appeal Campaign raised \$ 30,020 and total receipts for 2024 were up \$ 16,185 over 2023 and in line with our 2024 forecast.

At year's end, the number of participants on PAR stood at 87. Without the congregation's givings through PAR, it would be difficult 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 2025. Also, we wish to remind members that electronic donations to St. James are possible through e-transfer [eft@stjamesuc.com](mailto: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,

Again, this year St James surpassed goal of \$20,000 for Mission and Service. Total donations to Mission and Service were \$ 23,434.

2025 Budget preparation started in December and was completed in early January 2025 at a special committee meeting that focused entirely on the 2025 Budget. The 2025 Budget will be presented to St James Church Council for final approval. To meet our expected 2025 expenses, our receipts will require an increase of approximately 2.1 % or \$ 5,811 over last year's receipts.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee want to thank members of the congregation for their support in 2024. We would also like to thank the committee members and especially, our Treasurer, Pam Cunningham for her 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.

As we conclude this report we want to acknowledge Judi MacPherson, a special committee member, who retired from the Finance and Stewardship committee this year. We want to thank Judi for her insight, time and knowledge she provided our committee over the many years, Judi will be missed. Stewart MacPhee recently joined our committee. Stewart comes to us with experience he gained from sitting financial committees at St James in the past. We welcome Stewart.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Committee Members:

Stewart MacPhee	Isabel Tate	Pamela Cunningham - Church Treasurer
Rev. Peter Smith	Joanne Clifton	
Robert Smith		

### **TRUSTEES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The spring of 2024 saw the completion of the major steeple repair project. This significant undertaking was completed by Tate Construction with the placement of the four finials at the base of the upper steeple. The finials were constructed by a team of talented volunteers led by the late Brian MacLeod. The remainder of 2024 saw only routine maintenance at St. James.

A priority in 2025 is to deal with issues identified in an inspection report by the Building and Fire Inspector. The main item is the requirement to install emergency and exit lights in the Sanctuary and Narthex. A secondary item is to review/replace hardware on doors providing egress from the Sanctuary in compliance with the National Building Code.

This summer, repairs and necessary painting of the exterior will be undertaken. The Trustees and Property Committee plans to undertake a premises review this spring and include in this a video inventory of our total facility. This will hopefully identify areas of opportunity around storage, maintenance issues and provide an updated record of our Church.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dale Archibald, Chair

## OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

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

The Outreach and Communication Committee continues to work to serve and forward the life of the St. James. This particular year marked the 220th anniversary of our Church, as it approaches the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. The theme Deep, Bold, Daring was launched June 10th, 2024 to be continued through til June 10th, 2025.

Outreach accepted that seeking new pathways and deepening others would be in the spirit of this theme. In June, which was National Indigenous Month, our group along with the Tuesday Meditation Group began planning events that involved visiting various Indigenous cultural and spiritual locations. (Eskasoni Pow Wow in late June, Debert Interpretive Trail, Millbrook Heritage Centre and Alan Syliboy Gallery in October, and a multi media presentation at the Antigonish Heritage Centre by Gerald Gloade in November) This effort involved others from within the wider church and beyond, with interest for future projects.

We continue to produce quarterly newsletters thanks to Brenda Rose's efforts. At the time of this 2024 Annual Report, there is a need to determine how many to publish. Reaching the individuals who are not coming in person to church presents a challenge. Once again the use of volunteers from the congregation has helped to get the publication into the hands of our friends at St James.

The Church Librarian (Beth Schumacher) and Outreach have several times over the year moved books into the Hall to gain more attention. The mobile cart made its way amongst coffee drinkers. A table of children's books along with some plates of cookies were placed as an invitation to young people and their folks to look over and check out if interested.

An Info Fair following church likewise was held in the Fall to highlight the activities of the various groups. There was a steady stream of browsers which signaled the success of the event.

Ongoing efforts to edit and create more newcomer's material continue. As well, there's the need to remind all church goers to be aware of new attendees, offering a warm welcome. Collecting a few bulletins to share with those from St. James who couldn't make the service has been a thoughtful act. There is always appreciation shown.

Over the last year Outreach and Communication has been happy to absorb two initiatives, both endorsed by the United Church. The Eco Justice Initiative is actively meeting mostly via Zoom in our region. Joan MacGillivray and Kathryn Anderson are both in the group. As well, Kathryn who, after many years living and working in Tatamagouche, has returned to Antigonish and has joined our St James flock. The Breaking the Silence initiative goes back many years. We are lucky to have her with us and to be kept abreast of its latest goals.

Below is a brief description of the Eco-Justice group by Joan MacGillivray. We hope for an update on Breaking the Silence in a future Connections issue.

I am a member of the Eco-Justice Working Group as part of the Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Council. This Working Group includes all 3 Eastern Regions of the United Church and they are promoting and working on ways to protect God's creation. This includes ways our churches and communities can be more environmentally friendly and many churches have received grants to enable them to be more energy efficient and save money.

The Working Group also has a Green Enthusiast in each congregation to pass along information such as grants available. As the Green Enthusiast for St. James I did pass along information on grants available and also hoping we will be able to have a Minute for Eco-Justice. This is something our group is working on with the help of Rev. Shepherd Munikwa who is the Minister for Justice, Mission & Outreach for the United Church East.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Wittgens

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTIVE

The loosely organized Social Justice Collective members continue to work on assorted projects as their own personal interests and availability allows. Monthly *Minutes for Social Justice* from the pulpit were produced with much welcome input from Anne Camozzi. On the environmental front we again held two *Adopt-A-Highway* clean ups in the spring and fall, removing a dozen bags of trash each time. We continue to request replacement of the signs crediting St James with the sponsorship of “our” area, the intersection of highways 104 and 7 – to no avail! An *Earth Day Service* was held in April. Some continue to support *Fridays for Future*, (climate change), demonstrations held at noon hour outside Town Hall.

We produced a *Social Justice Calendar*; provided articles for *Connections*, and bulletin announcements on relevant topics. Members attended multiple events, signed petitions and wrote letters as appropriate. Some attended rallies in support of Palestine, also held periodically outside Town Hall. A series of movies related to this topic at our local library have also been supported when possible. And we sponsored a well attended and informative *Palestine Land Exercise* in October.

A suggestion that we’re following up on is to hold periodic *Lunch & Learn* sessions. For the first one we invited representatives of a few of the Antigonish Gift Book’s charities to speak to us. Although sparsely attended, the representatives of the VON and St Vincent de Paul Society were most informative and those of us able to attend thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learning about their valuable work. We hope to hold more in 2025.

We continue to search for ways to reach out in reconciliation with our First Nations neighbours. Many were able to attend Fran Wittgens’ excellent autumn initiatives in this area. First with a “field trip” to Debert and Millbrook in October, and secondly in November by attending the interesting presentation by Mi’kmaw Elder, speaker and artist, Gerald Gloade, at the Heritage Museum. 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: Michèle Ashby, Christine Briand, Anne Camozzi, Linda Darwish or Hope Graham. We continue to welcome new members and new ideas.

Michèle Ashby

## **PRAYER CIRCLE**

The Prayer Circle is a small group who pray individually and privately for those who have asked for prayer for themselves, friends or acquaintances; or for specific issues or topics. We stay in touch via email and phone calls. We continue to experience extremely busy periods, (up to five requests a week!), followed by weeks of no requests at all. But we pray whenever this ministry is needed throughout the year, and will happily continue this calling in 2025. New members are always welcome. Please let Michèle Ashby, (Coordinator), know of your interest or any requests. (902) 232-3473 or [timich@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:timich@ns.sympatico.ca)

Michèle Ashby

## **HOT MEAL PROGRAM**

2024, a year of peeling potatoes, scraping carrots, forgetting to take the meat out of the freezer, deciding what to serve, going shopping, deciding who will make dessert, and of course doing the dishes.... all chores that need to be done so we would be ready to serve lunch.

Meals were served on (92) ninety-two days with approximately 50 plus meals a day served between those that ate in the hall and the ones carried to a shut-in. When you do the math that is about 4600 meals.

With ten teams in the rotation it is serving once every five weeks. The Church would like to extend to them a heartfelt thank you for your time and energy. A special thank you is extended to Carol Burley, who has been baking for us, throughout the year. She supplies us with biscuits, cookies, brownies as well as large pans of apple crisp and bread pudding. Who among us does not enjoy homemade treats?

It was possible to serve a meal for around \$100.00 per day at the beginning of the year but now it is a good day if we spend only \$150.00. It is usually more for sure. It is certainly a tribute to those doing the planning for these days. Conversation with a home care worker who mentioned to me that a lot of the clients use our service and for many it is the only full hot meal they have all week as groceries are beyond their reach.

The smiles, chatter, and happy chaos in the hall during Tuesdays and Thursdays, is certainly a sign that St. James is looking out for those who may need a hot meal, some fellowship, or just a warm safe place to stop for a bit.

Pamela Cunningham



## **BERMUDA NOVA SCOTIA REGION**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Council of the United Church of Canada took place from May 10<sup>th</sup> til May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Dalhousie Agricultural College in Truro. Rev. Peter, May MacKenzie, and Claire MacDonell, and four of our young people attended from St. James.

The theme of this year's gathering was "Rooted in Faith" and included presentations from the Rev. Dr, Ross Bartlett who shared some of the research he had undertaken on churches with part time ministry and the qualities of thriving congregations. This year saw the celebration of our Region finishing the Affirming process and the expansion of the Youth at Region program from 15 young people last year to 51 this year. The General Council of the United Church is meeting in 2025 and so there was time spent electing delegates to attend those meetings in Calgary. There were also presentations from the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre, whose mission is to share, protect and explore the stories and lives of the earliest Mi'kmaq ancestors and those who have come after them in Mi'kma'ki, and from an ecumenical observer who returned from Gaza just before the recent war.

Saturday afternoon was filled attending workshops with topics ranging from Aboriginal Rights to Ukelele Church. The banquet on Saturday night gathered all the region together as we celebrated those who had been ordained 50 and 60 years. Along with the normal business and receiving of reports, there was also a chance to connect and reconnect and to simply be together as the United Church within Nova Scotia and Bermuda.

On Sunday during the celebration of ministry service five ministers who were previously recognized as Designated Lay Ministers were ordained and one DLM was recognized. The incoming president of the region is the Rev, Donna Tourneur from New Glasgow. Next year the gathering is in Sackville, New Brunswick in a combined meeting with the Fundy- St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (NB and PEI) as we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Peter Smith

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

Our local UCW hosted a Daffodil Tea in February. It is a public fund-raising event and brought some sunshine and companionship into the dark days of winter. We were pleased to host the MUCW conference in April 2024. We welcomed over 80 UCW members from across the Maritimes, over the weekend. We also held our community favourite Holly Tea and Sale, running annually in November for over 20 years. It is for some, “the unofficial start to Christmas”. The Holly Tea is also a fundraising event.

In addition to the three large events, we held 5 meetings, to pray and plan our year. We pause in the summer and over Christmas for family obligations and rest. Before each pause, we meet as a group and share a meal at a local restaurant.

We were saddened to lose a Mary MacLean, a Life Member this year; her presence is still felt in our activities. We were pleased to welcome 2 new members this year, after adding a new member last year, we are starting to feel a bit reinvigorated.

Respectfully,  
Christine Briand

Saint James United Church Women  
Income Statement 2024

Balance January 1		\$2820.10
 <u>Income</u>		
Funerals	\$2800.00	
BCE	\$1005.85	
Dues	\$480.00	
Daffodil Tea	\$671.53	
Holly Tea and Sale	\$4380.20	
Calendars	\$120.00	
Kitchen Rent	\$400.00	
MUCW cards	\$100.00	
Fundraising	\$320.00	
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$78.97</u>	
Total Income		\$10356.55
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Supplies	\$1137.22	
Flowers	\$108.90	
Bank fees	\$58.91	
Donations	\$5476.32	
MUCW dues	\$88.00	
Calendars	\$175.74	
St. James M&S	\$3800.00	
MUCW cards	\$296.41	
<u>UCW closing dinner</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	
Total expenses		<u>\$11341.50</u>
		<u>(\$984.95)</u>
Balance December 31		\$1835.15

Donations include St. James, St. James Memorial Fund, Mayfest, L'Arche Remembrance Day Wreath, Antigonish Affordable Housing, Dr.J.H. Gillis High School Bursary

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Chapman

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to meet, but due to storms or illness of members, we had to cancel a few meetings. We were very saddened by the death in February of one of our charter members, Mary MacLean, We miss her very much and the beautiful shawls she made in abundance. Please continue to let us know when you hear of someone who could benefit in receiving a shawl. You can call the office or get in touch with one of the members: Liz Millett, SherryBowman, Pamela Cunningham, Erin Tate, Barbara MacNeil, Mavis Murray.

Thank you for your support of this Ministry.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Mavis Murray

## **ST. JAMES GARDENERS**

We of the church gardeners group had a quiet summer tending the garden beds. Our group members take two week rotations for maintenance. We liberally applied compost in September. We are in competition for nutrients with the trees, but the trees make the graveyard heavenly. We welcome plants, bulbs and more members. Thank you. We are Marlene and Gerrit Groenenberg, Liz Millet and Mike Cooke, Diane Theuerkauf and Andrew Murray.

Marlene Groenenberg

## ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT - 2024

### REVENUE

Balance in Chequing Acc. January 01/2024	\$ 21,908.76
Sunday Offerings	702.00
Church Envelopes - Named Offerings	4,650.00
Memorial Donations	965.00
Donations to St. David's	525.00
Sold-Double Burial Plot	350.00
Cheques from Farmers' Mutual Ins. for St. David's Ins. Claims-Interior Repairs	8,006.92
Cheque from EMO for Hurricane Fiona Relief - Tree Damage	3,984.80
Cheque from St. James to St. David's	6,150.00
Savings Acc. Balance Transferred to Chequing Acc.	10,632.59
GIC Term 2-Year Investment Transferred to Chequing Acc.	6,916.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 64,791.18</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Cheque to St. James -2024 Tax Receipts	6,140.00
Church Interior Repairs	24,317.85
Fire Insurance	902.00
Municipal Fire Rate	98.25
Electricity	1,066.73
Organist	875.00
Mowing Church Grounds	1,235.00
Cleanup of Church Grounds-Tree & Bush Handling	9,380.00
Christmas Supplies & Electric Heaters	806.49
Ministerial Supply	750.00
Gift	100.00
Bank Charges	227.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 45,898.99</b>

### CHEQUING ACCOUNT

Balance in Bank January 01/2025	\$ 18,892.19
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### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance in Bank January 01/2024	\$ 10,542.63
Bank Interest	89.96
Closing Value-Savings Account Transferred to Chequing Acc.	\$ 10,632.59

### GIC TERM-2 YEAR INVESTMENT

Balance in Bank January 01/2024	\$ 6,885.13
Interest	30.98
Closing Value- GIC TERM-2 Investment Transferred to Chequing Acc.	<b>\$ 6,916.11</b>

**NORTHERN NOVA SCOTIA FOUNDATION**  
**Annual Report 2024**

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 schools to ensure graduates were informed of the scholarships available. A poster with a QR code advertising the scholarship and an email to guidance counsellors were sent to every school in the covered area. Those efforts resulted in a good number of applications including graduates from some smaller high schools.

After careful consideration of the applications and available funds, the Foundation awarded 38 entrance scholarships of \$2000 in 2024. This means that since 2020 the Foundation has offered 149 scholarships to graduates worth \$246,000. The money distributed comes from investment income generated through the endowment with a current market value of \$1,323,667.79 as of December 31, 2024.

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 (Trustee for St. Francis Xavier University).

Mary Anne MacDonald (Trustee for Dalhousie University).

Rev. Peter Smith (Trustee for St. James United Church).

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH - BUDGET 2025**

<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>	<b>BUDGET 2025</b>	<b>UNREVIEWED AS OF 31-Dec</b>	<b>BUDGET 2024</b>
<b><u>MINISTRY</u></b>			
SALARY	87,545	84,995	84,995
TRAVEL	1,100	1,001	1,000
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,689	624	1,640
ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	10,355	10,177	10,177
PULPIT SUPPLY	1,500	1,250	1,976
	<b>102,189</b>	<b>98,047</b>	<b>99,788</b>
<b><u>CHRISTIAN FAITH AND DEVELOPMENT</u></b>			
CF&D DIRECTOR	7,853	7,567	7,624
SS MATERIAL	150	58	300
	<b>8,003</b>	<b>7,625</b>	<b>7,974</b>
<b><u>MUSIC / WORSHIP MINISTRY</u></b>			
WAGES, ORGANIST	25,407	24,453	24,453
ORGANIST SUPPLY & GUESTS	500	380	800
TRANSFER TO MUSIC FUND		250	250
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE	400	2,669	400
WORSHIP	1,200	1,022	1,500
	<b>27,507</b>	<b>28,774</b>	<b>27,403</b>
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>			
WAGES, SECRETARY	18,481	17,128	17,943
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	12,000	10,751	10,000
PENSION& GROUP INSURANCE	26,500	26,936	26,000
SALARIES AND WAGES, ACCRUED		-	
TREASURER HONORARIUM	4,923	4,780	4,780
INSURANCE CHURCH	7,471	7,584	7,584
PHOTOCOPIER	450	402	350
OFFICE SUPPLIES	800	764	650
POSTAGE	800	758	750
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	3,500	3,616	3,500
INTEREST & BANK CHARGES	1,900	2,023	1,900
GIFTS	800	800	600
STAFF EDUCATION	500		500
PAYROLL EXPENSES	1,000	862	1,250
FIRE LEVY	350	333	250
MISCELLANEOUS		-	
	<b>79,475</b>	<b>76,737</b>	<b>76,057</b>

	<b>BUDGET 2025</b>	<b>UNREVIEWED AS OF 31-Dec</b>	<b>BUDGET 2024</b>
<b><u>CHURCH MAINTENANCE &amp; OPERATION</u></b>			
WAGES, CUSTODIAN	23,534	23,288	22,849
CUSTODIAN SUPPLY	900	472	880
HEATING OIL	15,500	21,378	15,600
ELECTRICITY	7,900	7,315	7,900
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	2,000	857	2,500
WATER & SEWER	550	638	500
SUPPLIES	2,400	2,107	1,200
GARBAGE REMOVAL	1,950	1,956	1,920
SNOW CLEARING & SALTING	400	164	400
ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE		-	1,800
Ch Maint & Op Recovery (HM)		(1,500)	
	<b>55,134</b>	<b>56,675</b>	<b>55,549</b>
<b><u>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE &amp; HOSPITALITY</u></b>			
EXPENSES	200	76	300
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	800	693	500
HOT MEAL EXPENSES	-	0	-
HOT MEAL DONATIONS (NO RECEIPT)	-	0	-
HOT MEAL DONATIONS	-	0	-
TRANSFER IN - H.M. FUND	-	0	-
	<b>1,000</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>800</b>
<b><u>OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS</u></b>			
EXPENSES	700	699	500
ST. DAVIDS PROJECT	2,000	6,150	2,000
AST DONATION	500	500	500
	<b>3,200</b>	<b>7,349</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b><u>FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</u></b>			
ENVELOPES	320	342	400
MISSION & SERVICE SUNDAY		-	200
	<b>320</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>600</b>
<b><u>MISSION AND SERVICE</u></b>			
	22,000	23,434	20,000
	<b>22,000</b>	<b>23,434</b>	<b>20,000</b>



# ST.JAMES UNITED CHURCH BUDGET 2025

	<u>BUDGET 2025</u>	<u>UNREVIEWED AS OF 31-Dec-24</u>	<u>BUDGET 2024</u>
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>			
CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS	223,078	206,224	239,171
DONATIONS	16,000	16,406	6,000
FALL APPEAL	25,000	30,020	15,000
FUND RAISING	8,000	7,684	6,000
UCW DONATIONS		4,500	
ANNIVERSARY HYMN SING		1,255	
INTEREST INCOME BNS & RY		1,280	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>272,078</b>	<b>267,369</b>	<b>266,171</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>			
MINISTRY	102,189	98,047	99,788
CHRISTIAN FAITH & DEVELOPMENT	8,003	7,625	7,974
MUSIC/WORSHIP MINISTRY	27,757	28,774	27,403
ADMINISTRATION	79,475	76,737	76,057
CHURCH M&O	55,134	56,675	55,549
CONG LIFE & HOSPITALITY	1,000	769	800
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION	3,200	7,349	3,000
FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP	320	342	600
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>277,078</b>	<b>276,318</b>	<b>271,171</b>
<b><u>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</u></b>	<b>\$ (5,000)</b>	<b>\$ (8,949)</b>	<b>\$ (5,000)</b>
<b>TRANSFER FROM (TO) INVESTMENT FUND</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>\$ (3,949)</b>	<b>\$</b>