



St. James Visitor

Easter 2013



Easter a Season of Change and Transition – The Reverend Bill Bartlett

Every year the arrival of spring and the celebration of Easter remind us of hope in desolation. When the uncertainty that comes with change seems to be the undercurrent of what we do, we can turn to the Easter message for affirmation of our belief that in times of tumult, there is hopefulness.

Friends, we know change will always be with us on the journey of life. For many in our congregation, recent times have brought major personal changes: the death of loved ones, loss of relationships, loss of employment, major health issues, and a change in places of residence. For others, change has come with beginning a new relationship, the birth of a child, graduation from school, leaving home and starting a new career.

As a congregation, we have also been going through change and transitions, similar to all churches throughout the province and country. At St. James we carry on our daily work in the midst of change, as together we move through the process of putting into action the findings of our discernment for new ministry and office personnel.

As I ponder the theme of change and the last days of this Lenten Season, words from the book *The Emerging Church: A Model for Change and a Map for Renewal* (2008), by Bruce Sanguin, come to mind. Bruce writes *“I want to help our congregations to be alive—to be centres of authenticity, vitality, and creativity. I want to be with others who drink deeply from the well of living waters and then make a Christ-shaped offering of all the*

nourishment they’ve received. In other words, I want to be with those who want to make a difference in the world. There is so much untapped potential in our congregations.”

I can only imagine Jesus having a sense of the untapped potential in those who travelled with him and in those who gathered to see him on the journey to Jerusalem. As Easter people, Jesus would also have each one of us live out our full potential in our personal lives and as a congregation. My prayer for all of us, as we hear again the resurrection story, is that we will hold fast to the hope-filled certainty of new beginning places inherent in its message. As a bulb planted in the earth bursts forth into the beauty of an Easter lily, may our places of change and transition be transformed into avenues of new life.

In the Bulb There is a Flower (Voices United)

“In the bulb there is a flower: in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter, there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”

Easter Blessings—Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah!



Did You Know?

Our new office administrator is SuAn Randall.

Our new office hours are:

Monday	1- 4:30
Tuesday	9:30 - 5
Wednesday	9:30 - 5
Thursday	9:30 - 5
Friday	9:30 - 1

Susan Sheppard and our Godly Play Group are featured in a national publication. See page 9.



JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, HALLELUJAH

This is one of my favorite hymns of any season of the church year. I love the music and the lyrics.....they bring such meaning to my Christian journey. If I asked you what do those words mean to you as a Christian person, what would you say? What feelings do those words bring to your spiritual life?

I know for those persons I visit they mean many different things. Through my conversations over the years, first and foremost these words bring with them HOPE. Hope for myself is the essence to my existence as a Christian disciple.

Having hope in one's life is different depending on one's life circumstance. It could mean moving to a new home, such as a seniors' residence and after a few months finally making a connection with someone to share some of those lonely hours.

For others, hope may take the form of receiving the congregational bulletin each week. A personal handwritten note inside makes the person on the other end feel like they have not been forgotten. It also enables the person to stay connected with their faith community, St. James United, though he/she can no longer worship in our sanctuary. Hope may be a meaningful prayer with family gathered at the foot of a loved one's coffin. *How has hope lived in your life?*

We are heading into the season of papers and final exams for post-secondary students. What are the themes of hope I experience on campus?the chaplaincy exam oasis; room mates sharing meals and laughter at home and in the University Center.; the students sharing new experiences at Caplin Cafe every Wednesday in the chapel; the 3 hour prayer walk around campus on Good Friday with hot cross buns and warm coffee afterward.; having a coffee with the chaplain to share anxieties and fears. Hope is endeavouring to be the hands and feet of Christ on Campus....

Easter is one of the most wondrous and beautiful seasons in the liturgical year. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the gift of hope, new life and everlasting peace. Only through the grace of God can we let go of the past and discover the wonders of the future. This is when Easter amazingly abounds.

“In the cold and snow of winter,
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see”

May you be blessed with Easter Hope during this season of new life and with glimpses of God's love, hope and abiding grace.

Rev. Pamela

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

March 25	Topsail UC at 7:30 pm
March 26	1 st United Mount Pearl at 7:30 pm
March 27	Cochrane UC at 7:30 pm
March 28	Pouch Cove UC (Communion) at 7:30 pm
Good Friday	Wesley UC from noon until 3pm St. James Neighbourhood Prayer Walk at 10 am St. James Service at 7pm
Easter Sunday	St. James Communion at 8.30 am St. James Easter Breakfast at 9.30 am St. James Easter Celebration at 11 am





MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The annual meeting to review the activities of 2012 was held on Sunday, March 10, 2013. Members of the congregation enjoyed fellowship together during a soup and sandwich lunch provided by members of Council and other kind folks. Following lunch, the meeting convened in the church sanctuary and included reports from our various committees and groups, as well as the financial statement for 2012. The reports outlined the many good works taking place at St. James, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer members and our staff. Discussion around a solution to the "gull problem" and the interest rate on our Scotiabank loan took priority during the meeting. Suggested action was agreed upon by the majority of those in attendance and your Council will follow up. It is planned to have these reports available on our website at www.stjamesuc.org, and paper copies are also available if requested.

The finance committee presented the budget for 2013. After much discussion and the assurance that we would meet any shortfall necessary for successful participation by our young people in the GO project this summer, the budget was approved.

I am happy to report that all committee chair positions have been filled for the 2013 year. There is always room for others to serve on these committees, and I encourage you to consider ways you may offer your services and come forward to help.

We are pleased to welcome SuAn Randall as our Office Administrator. Please make an opportunity to visit the office and welcome SuAn to her new role. Our office will be open Monday afternoons, full days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays as well as Friday mornings.

On behalf of your Church Council, I extend the wish that your Easter Season be rich with love and friendship and filled with the promise of a wonderful year ahead as we work together in the life of St. James United Church.

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of Council if you have concerns.

Clyde Flight, Chair

OUR 2013 CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair of Council: Clyde Flight

Vice Chair: Trevor Bartlett

Secretary: Gloria Le Feuvre

Christian Education: Douglas Matthews

Ministry and Personnel: Jim von Riesen

Stewardship: Trevor Bartlett

Admin and Communications: Janice Winsor

Finance Committee: Brian Ramjattan

Worship and Sacraments: Michelle Skinner

Building Maintenance: Bill Legge

Youth Representative: Miranda Ramjattan

AOTS: Les Dean

UCW: Menetha Dyke

East District Reps: Ruth Baker

Barbara Butt

Rosemary White (Alternate)

Full-time Minister: Rev. Bill Bartlett

Minister of Visitation and UC Chaplain, MUN

Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Minister of Youth and Christian Education:

Susan Sheppard

Treasurer:

Jean Thompson



UCW EASTER GREETINGS

by Vera Marshall and Jean White, Co-Presidents

Oh, the lovely, long daylight hours, warmer temperatures and disappearing snow banks all add up to a re-awakening which is Spring. We think it's the best season of the year, when it seems everything comes alive.

Our UCW started the new year with Rev. Pamela installing the officers and committee conveners at our January meeting. This year our programs, including worship, will be prepared by different members who volunteer on a monthly basis. If February and March are any indicators, then we can look forward to some very interesting and inspiring programs.

The Friendship Group, which meets every second Wednesday afternoon, is a wonderful way for seniors to come together for an afternoon with friends to enjoy the traditional fellowship, fun and food.

Our UCW Choir continues to "sing from the heart" when included with Sunday morning worship, and the Thursday morning Craft Group enjoys coming together before our Spring and Fall Teas to create items for the handwork stall.

Women of the congregation would be most welcome to join any activity around our UCW group.

One of the highlights of the year is coming up on March 23. Many people look forward to our Spring Tea. (We just purchased new tablecloths to fit the

bigger tables, and we will be 'debuting' them at this Tea.) The generous support we receive from the congregation contributes greatly to its success and for this we are truly thankful.

With the gladness of Spring and the joy of new birth, we wish you all a blessed and joyous Easter and leave you with this poem. (The author is unknown.)

SPRING

Springtime is a season
of hope and joy and cheer.
There's beauty all around us
to see and touch and hear.

So no matter how downhearted
and discouraged we may be,
New hope is born when we behold
leaves budding on a tree.

Or when we see a timid flower
push through the frozen sod,
And open wide in glad surprise
its petaled eyes to God.

For this is just God saying,
"Lift up your eyes to Me."
And bleakness of your Spirit
like the budding springtime tree
will lose its wintry darkness,
and your heavy heart will sing.

For God never sends the winter
without the joy of Spring.

EASTER GREETINGS FROM THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

As we say adieu to the silver of winter and welcome the brightly blooming spring, as the earth is refreshed with the joys of Easter, here's wishing you every happiness the season can bring.

~ Winona, Barbara, Ruth & Shirley

New members are always welcome; why not join us and see what you have been missing!

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

~C.S. Lewis~



**A CUP OF COFFEE FROM THE WALL** — submitted by Jean Thompson

I sat with my friend in a well-known coffee shop in Waterloo near Kitchener. As we enjoyed our coffee, a man entered and sat at a table beside us.

He called the waiter and placed his order saying, "Two cups of coffee, with one of them for the wall." We heard this order with interest and observed that he was served with one cup of coffee, but he paid for two. As soon as he left, the waiter pasted a piece of paper on the wall saying, "A Cup of Coffee."

While we were still there, two other men entered and ordered three cups of coffee, two on the table and one for the wall. They had two cups of coffee but paid for three and left. This time also the waiter did the same. He pasted a piece of paper on the wall saying, "A Cup of Coffee."

It seemed that this gesture was a norm at this place. However, it was something unique and perplexing for us. Since we had nothing to do with the matter, we finished our coffee, paid the bill and left.

After a few days, we again had a chance to go to this coffee shop. While we were enjoying our coffee, a man entered. The way this man was dressed did not match the standard nor the atmosphere of this coffee shop. Poverty was evident from the looks on his face. As he seated himself, he looked at the wall and said, "One cup of coffee from the wall." The waiter served coffee to this man with the customary respect and dignity.

The man had his coffee and left without paying. We were amazed to watch all this when the waiter took off a piece of paper from the wall and threw it in the waste basket. Now the matter was very clear. The great respect for the needy shown by the inhabitants of this town welled up our eyes with tears.

Coffee is not a need of our society, nor a necessity of life. The point to note is that when we take pleasure in any blessing, maybe we also need to think about those people who appreciate that specific blessing as much as we do, but they cannot afford it.

Note the character of this waiter, who is playing a consistent and generous role as he helped the needy with a smile on his face. Also ponder upon this man in need. He enters the coffee shop without having to lower his self-esteem asking for a free cup of coffee. He only needs to look at the wall.

Along with the other characters, we need to remember the role played by the wall that reflects the generosity and care of the dwellers of this town.



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
Spring Tea and Sale
Saturday, March 23
2-4 p.m.



Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from UCW members or at the door.

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Contact Barbara Butt (576-1344) or Sheilah Beckett (726-7421).



DIAPERS FOR GUATAMALA — St. James Youth Group

Thank you for your donations of used T-shirts for this project. On November 24, 2012, volunteers of all ages and sewing ability gathered in the Fellowship Room to cut, sew and serge the mounds of T-shirts into diapers. We made approximately 85 diapers that afternoon.

For Christmas Eve we asked for donations of diaper pins and received hundreds of pins. The diapers and pins were presented to the Mission team from the Church of the Good Samaritan on January 13 and delivered to families in Guatemala the following week. Thank you again for your support of this project.



Glenda Winsor and Dylan Matthews "serging" on!



Jennifer Bartlett and Susan just acting "sew-sew."



The Game of Life and Values

A spring camp for Jr. and Sr. High students

Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Center

April 1-3, 2013

Life is a game!

Is it sweet as *Candyland*?

Do you have a *Monopoly* on the good things?

Are you wandering around without a *Clue*?

Got *Trouble* or find yourself in Checkmate?



Come on out to Burry Heights April 1-3 for a spring camp which will include games, videos, and fun that will help us reflect on life's stages, changes and curveballs. See Information next page.

Church, Mission, Worship and Me?

Twenty-nine youth from the St. John's, Mount Pearl area took part in this great weekend with workshop leader Michael Shewburg of the GO Project. With worship, music, art reflection time, Luv Bombs and finally a lively game of "The Hunger Games," youth and leaders learned a little more about God, the mission of the church and themselves. On Sunday morning the youth divided into two groups leading worship at Cochrane Street United and at 1st United Mountt Pearl. Thank you to the congregations of Cochrane Street and Gower for allowing us to use their buildings and for providing the meals and snacks for this event.



Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Center

Life's Games Camp

April 1-3, 2013

Cost \$70 for two nights

Cheques payable to: Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Center

Registration deadline: March 22

Pre-registration on-line burryheights@hotmail.com

Bring your regular camping gear and warm clothes. Register early as space is limited!!!

Applications available from Susan or on Burry Heights camp web page

Due to potential allergies please do not bring snack foods or wear scented products while at this event!

Arrival - Monday – 10 a.m. Burry Heights

Depart – Wednesday 2 p.m. Burry Heights

GO Project 2013

This summer we will be once more hosting the GO Project at St. James. Our site coordinator is Alana Martin. She will be arriving in St. John's on June 2 to start the process of setting up this summer's project. The other three team members will be arriving on June 23 for two weeks of training before the participants arrive on July 7. We will need billets for Alana and her team so if you can provide a bed and some meals for Alana from June 2-July 18 or one of the three leaders from June 23-July 6, please contact Susan Sheppard.

In other Go news, we have 10 youth and leaders travelling to GO Halifax and 5 staying home to do GO St. John's. If any others are still interested in registering please, contact Susan as soon as possible. GO St. John's is the only Go site that has not required participants to bring air mattress. Until now we have been able to borrow camp cots from the Canadian Military. Unfortunately that option is no longer available to us. We would like to continue providing camp cots and would like to purchase 30 at a cost of approximately \$100 each. These would be used for GO and any other group using St. James for overnight events. They would also be a great asset to the church to have in case of another emergency such as we saw on September 11, 2001. We are hoping that individuals, families or groups may be interested in donating the cost of a camp cot (\$100) in memory of loved ones. Donations should be made out to St. James United Church and labeled for camp cots. The group would like to thank you for your continued support.



PROJECT GRACE by Gillian Sheppard

Music has always been a part of the St. James United Church community. In the past the church has had its own "St James Community Band" and lately has played host to the Eastern Wind Ensemble. In addition, there are multiple choirs for children, men and women and a Praise Band! Since September 2012, however, there has been a different kind of music inhabiting the halls of St. James.

Project Grace started in 2011 as a summer music camp, free to students from St. Andrews Elementary School. The camp happened again in July 2012, a little longer (nearly two weeks) and a little more in-depth. The students took daily lessons on violin and cello, in addition to their classes in KinderMusik, Choir, Movement/Yoga, Instrument demonstrations, crafts and games.

All of the children in the 2012 summer camp performed in the fourth annual "Seasons of Love" benefit concert on stage at the D.F. Cook Concert Hall at the MUN School of Music. Their performance received a standing ovation.

In September 2012, Project Grace took on a whole new challenge, loosely following the model of Venezuela's "El Sistema." Project Grace now offers free weekly music lessons in Violin, Cello, Flute and Trumpet to approximately 30 children from all walks of life, regardless of race, gender, age or circumstance.

Project Grace has a faculty of 8 teaching artists and 3 administrative volunteers. The faculty is comprised of current MUN students, local professional musicians, and even one professor from the School of Music. Four of our six string faculty make up the MUN Suncor String Quartet, who donate their time as part of the quartet's outreach mandate.

Faculty and students of Project Grace are now excitedly preparing for their end of semester performances. Students will perform in the Palm Sunday Church Service at 11 am as well as presenting our Winter Semester Showcase at 3:30 pm in the Sanctuary on

Sunday, March 24. All are invited to attend. Admission is free; however donations to the program are greatly appreciated.

The camaraderie that has developed between the children, and the skills they have learned – both for playing music and working together as a team in and out of the program – are immediately apparent. For many of these students, without the free tuition and loan of instruments provided by Project Grace, community music making would not be possible. Project Grace is grateful to all those who have supported the program. Any donation, whether it is an instrument, volunteer time, or a financial contribution, is always greatly appreciated.

If you wish to support Project Grace, please visit our website or contact our Executive Director. If you would simply like to see the program in action, we welcome you to visit us on any Wednesday or Thursday afternoon between 3 and 4:15pm!

Questions? Contact:

*Gillian Sheppard, Executive Director
projectgracenl@gmail.com*

Please visit us at www.projectgrace.ca; like us on facebook and follow us on twitter: @ProjectGraceNL

EASTER BREAKFAST

Come join us for a boiled egg breakfast Easter Sunday morning between the 8:30 a.m. service and the 11 a.m. service.



Prepared by the Youth, proceeds (donations only) to go to the GO Project.



PLANNED GIFTS

Gifts of the Spirit

Gifts of the Heart

Gifts of a Lifetime

Ten Things You Can Do Today to Leave a Legacy

1. **Prepare a Will.** Without one, you lose control over your property at death.
2. Leave a gift in your Will to the Church and the other charitable organizations that you value. Just imagine the positive impact on the Church and community if everyone made a gift from their estate.
3. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets of your estate to the Church through your Will. If you are making a gift to Trinity United Church, remember to include the address and consider adding the words “or its successor.”
4. Consider using **Current Assets** for your charitable gift. These include cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, strip bonds and real estate. If you donate marketable securities, you pay no tax on the capital gains.
5. Make a gift to the Church and receive a lifetime income through a United Church **Gift Annuity** or **Charitable Remainder Trust**.
6. Name the Church as a beneficiary of your **RRSP** or **RRIF**. It will go directly to the Church and not through probate.
7. Name the Church as the owner and/or beneficiary of a new, existing or paid-up **life insurance** policy.
8. Ask your financial or estate planning advisor to include charitable giving as part of their counsel to you and their other clients.
9. Encourage your Board or Council to establish a Planned Giving Program in your congregation. Your Financial Development Officer can help.
10. Contact **Clyde Flight**, your Financial Development Officer, for more information about how *you* can leave a legacy to the area(s) of the Church you want to support—your own United Church congregation, Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada, the Peace Fund, a theological college, children’s camp, an outreach ministry ... the opportunities are abundant!

This article also appears in the March 2013 edition of the *Connector*, which is an insert in the March edition of the *Observer*. If you are not currently receiving the *Observer*, why not contact our *Observer* representative, Al Penney, via our church office. **If we increase the number of *Observer* subscriptions in our congregation by 50 percent, all our subscriptions, current and new, will receive the magazine at a 50 percent discount for one year.**

Please note: Also in this edition of the *Observer* there is an article on page 35, entitled *21st Century Sunday School* which features our very own Susan Sheppard and members of our Godly Play group.



Clyde Flight

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The United Church of Canada

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2013

DATE	TIME	DETAILS	MUSIC
April 7	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Regular (Baptism)	Senior Choir
April 14	11:00	Regular	Youth Choir
April 21	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Memorial Hymn Sing (Coffee Hour)	Various choirs
April 28	11:00	Regular	PWC Chamber Choir
May 5	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Regular (Baptism)	Senior Choir
May 12	11:00	Christian Family Sunday (Coffee hour)	UCW Choir
May 19	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Regular	Senior Choir
May 26	11:00	Confirmation Sunday (Communion)	Youth Choir
June 2	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Laity Sunday	AOTS Choir
June 9	11:00	Sunday School Closing	Sight Restored
June 16	11:00	Regular (Baptism) Coffee hour	Solo
June 23	11:00	Regular	Solo
June 30	11:00	Regular (July 1 st)	Solo
July 7	11:00	Regular (Baptism)	Solo
July 14	11:00	Go Project	Go Music
July 21	11:00	Regular (Communion)	Solo
July 28	11:00	Regular	Solo
August 4	11:00	Regular (Baptism) VOWR	Solo
August 11	11:00	Regular (Communion)	Solo
August 18	11:00	Regular	Solo
August 25	11:00	Regular	Solo
September 1	11:00	Regular (Baptism)	Solo
September 8	11:00	Regular (Communion)	Senior Choir
September 15	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Regular	Senior Choir
September 22	11:00	Regular	Youth Choir
September 29	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Regular	UCW Choir
October 6	11:00	World Wide Communion Sunday	Senior Choir
October 13	9:30	Contemporary Worship	Sight Restored
	11:00	Thanksgiving Sunday (Baptism)	Senior & Youth