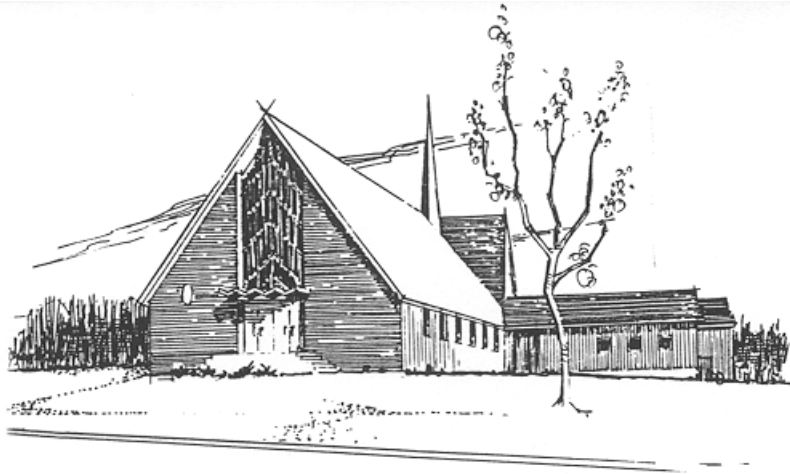


ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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1. OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

BY BAPTISM

January 24

Jaxson Ralph Gedge, son of Stephanie Anne (White) Gedge and Jody Ralph Gedge

February 7

Grace Susan Elizabeth Bolger, daughter of Wendy Elizabeth (LeGrow) Bolger and Dean George Bolger

March 6

Emma Claire Horner, daughter of Melissa Alice (Haley) Horner and Jeffrey Blair Horner

Harrison Daniel Cannon, son of Kimberley Leanne Fahey and Daniel Robert Cannon

April 24 (Adult Baptism)

Amita Goyal, daughter of Veena Gupta Goyal and Sahdev Goyal

May 1

Jaxon James Jennings-Lundrigan, son of Jamie Lynn Lundrigan and Leslie Jennings

July 2

Joshua Ralph Cheater, son of Darlene Michelle (Mansfield) Cheater and Jeremy George Cheater

James William Cheater, son of Darlene Michelle (Mansfield) Cheater and Jeremy George Cheater

August 7

Blake Edward Loyola Earle, son of Krystal Marie Glenda Mackey and Chad Edward Earle

September 4

Nolan Bernard Guy Forward, son of Melanie Rose (McDonald) Forward and Hedley Guy Forward

Jacob Aaron Christopher James, son of Diane Michelle (King) James and Stephen Christopher James

November 6

Ethan Alexander Green, son of Stephanie Nicole (Boland) Green and Kristian Kyle Green

Penelope Violet Thorne Piercey, daughter of Rebecca Miriam Thorne and Jeffery Calvin Matthew Piercey

December 4

Mackenzie Audrey Elizabeth Robbins, daughter of Tina Christine Robbins

December 25

Lylith Cynthia-Jean Noftall daughter of Danielle Ramona-Jean Maharaj and Mitchell Noftall

2. BY CONFIRMATION

April 24

Daniel Adams
Rebecca-Ann Bartlett
Sophie Fitzgerald
Amita Goyal
Rachel Moss
Aaron Oates
Amelia Quinton
Claire Snow

June 12

Victoria Smith
Margaret Butt

June 20

Amy Michelle Dalziel

3. BY TRANSFER

Recognized April 24

Sarah Norman from Lumsden United Church
Rev. Melvin Ralph on record as St. James United from Conference at his request

Recognized July 3

Kenneth Kevin Joshua from Christ Methodist Church, Delhi

REMOVED BY TRANSFER

Peter Smith to First United Mount Pearl
Derek Tuck to Cowan Heights United

4. MARRIAGES

John William Wright and Karen Lynn Patey	July 1
Joseph Kevin Husk and Heather Danielle Noseworthy	July 9
Curtis Michael King and Janna Nicole Grenning	August 5
Jerome Paul Quinlan and Sharon Clara Peyton	August 6
Jason Harold Churchill and Amy Catherine Skinner	August 27
Chad Edward Earle and Krystal Marie Glenda Mackey	September 17
Darrell Gerald Kelloway and Ashlea Ellen Elizabeth Legge	October 8
Stephen Winston Newhook and Krista Lynn Somers	November 12
Tyler James Hiscock and Jennifer Marie Saunders	December 30

5. CANDIDATE FOR DIACONAL MINISTRY

Rebecca Pike

6. INQUIRERS

Chelsea Skanes
Katelyn Vardy

7. IN MEMORIAM

Burials (by our Ministers)

Susan Bishop	January 9
Thomas Alexander Hickman	January 10
Shirley Short	January 15
Francis Neil Dingwell	January 16
Brian Daniel King	January 17
Alan Arthur Andrews	January 26
Matilda Heath	February 18
John Leonard Smith	February 20
Greta (Rita) J. Harris	March 2
Leslie Gilbert Benson	March 17
Violet Martin	March 28
John Wesley Hunt	April 3
Alberta Noel	April 8
Stephen Ross Coffin	April 29
Howard James Parsons	April 29
Rev. Melvin Ralph	May 29
Reuben Patey	June 1
Edgar Walter Noftall	June 4
Roberta Dyer	June 25
Dr. Roseanne McCann	July 6
Ralph Parsons	August 6
John Powell Pike	September 6
Charlie Patey	September 14
Eric Anthony Patey	September 23
Sean Francis Burke	October 13
Lorenzo Goodyear	October 15
Peter Winsor	November 14
Leo James Janes	December 25

Burials Informed to Office (Outside St. James not by our Ministers)

Carl Harvey George	April 2
Marion Whalen	October 3

8. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF ST. JAMES CHURCH COUNCIL

As it is often said, “Time flies when you’re having fun.” It is hard to believe 2016 has come and gone already. The past year was filled with many changes, yet the congregation, ministers and staff at St. James again showed patience and perseverance as we made the adjustments. St. James bid farewell to Rev. Terrie Jackson as she and her husband moved to Alberta. Shortly after, we bid our former choir directors, Sophia and Amy, best wishes as they left the province to pursue other opportunities.

However, St. James landed on its feet. Our two part-time ministers, Rev. Pamela and Susan, have done a tremendous job of sharing the ministerial duties. We were fortunate – and grateful – for Rev. Ettie coming on board to cover Visitation duties. Emma Clark has filled the role of the Choir Director for the Senior Choir and has arranged for many guest musicians to augment anthems and other musical presentations. Organist Ashley Ruby shared her talents with us in the latter part of the year.

While we undergo the process to find a new full-time minister, the congregation has certainly come together to support the cause. The Joint Needs Assessment Committee had gotten off to a slow start due to unexpected delays in the availability of East District agents, but that has now been resolved and the process has started.

Happily, as shown in the financial report, St. James was able to balance the budget in 2016. It must be again recognized that this was largely achieved through the financial support of the UCW and AOTS. These groups, the pillars of the church, cannot be thanked enough. Bolstered by their commitments, the committees, staff, and ministers went about their duties while ensuring expense budgets were not exceeded. Revenue from collections was maintained in 2016 and one major expense, the roof loan, will no longer exist in 2017. Currently, the largest financial issue we face is to get the manse rented and to start generating revenue from the property.

As indicated by the In Memoriam section, several of our long-standing members passed away in 2016. Their decades of commitment and contributions are acknowledged with the utmost gratitude and respect, and their legacy will be continued with our collective efforts.

On behalf of the Church Council, I would like to extend our thanks to all who have supported St. James through their work, volunteering and finances. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers and groups so deeply committed to our church.

Trevor Bartlett
Chair, St. James Council

9. REVEREND PAMELA JONES-FITZGERALD, Minister

“Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:2)

Dear Friends,

It has been six months since Susan and I have made the transition into a shared worship leadership role at St. James. How quickly time has gone! I am enjoying being with you all in this new way, although I do miss my role as Minister of Visitation.

As I write this, I have to think of how exciting a time this is. Not only are annual reports a glimpse of the year that is past, they are a springboard for the future. And what a bright future we have before us! Our creativity, our spirit, our warmth, our desire to grow, and most of all our faith in God will sustain us and give us strength as we grow in new directions in the future.

I feel a little like Paul writing to his congregation, offering these words of wisdom... “Let’s keep our sights focused on Jesus and make Him and His ministry the primary focus of our existence as a community of faith.”

In times of change the path is never clear, but hold on to Jesus, and He will help you to hold on to each other and to weather the unexpected. Even as new beginnings offer opportunities to dream of how things might be different, hold on to that which is at the heart of who we are as Christ-followers – proclaim the good news of new life in Christ for all who open their hearts to Him. “Go make disciples,” as Jesus said.

I want to thank you all for your continued support of my ministry. It continues to grow and evolve. It is never boring, always exciting and filled with challenges. All of this helps me to grow as a Minister and as a person endeavoring to make my way in this world. Knowing I have the support of this wonderful faith community makes the journey strewn with sweetness, kindness and much love.

As we discover new and exciting paths for ministry, I trust that God will continue to bless us in our life together and continue to make you a blessing in your community.

Sincerely and with many blessings,
Rev. Pamela

10. SUSAN SHEPPARD, DLM

What a year! I have been privileged to have been part of so much change and growth, good-byes and welcomes, and general life and work of this community of faith.

This was our sixth year hosting the Go Project. I would like to thank you for your continued support of this project and the youth who take part, both participants who stay with us for 11 days each summer and our own youth who fundraise and travel to various Go Projects across the country. From participation in projects such as Go and Rendez-vous, our youth and young adults have experienced “church” in many forms, such as the joys of mission work and developing lifelong connections to other youth across the country. Three of our youth have even started their journeys to ordained ministry as a result.

As well as Go, some of our regular events included the Pancake Supper on Friday, February 12, moved from its traditional Tuesday night by a snow storm; Maundy Thursday’s *Jesus Christ Superstar* movie night; Confirmation; and the Blessing of the Animals service in October.

At the urging of our youth and young adults, I helped them bring their proposals on same-sex marriage to the Church Council and then on to the congregation through a series of information sessions leading up to a vote in April. The proposals having passed, youth, clergy, and other members of St. James took part in the St. John’s Pride parade and Interfaith Pride Worship service in July.

During Lent about 20 people took part in a study entitled “Growing a Rule of Life.” After Easter a number of the group returned to take part in a book study of John Dominic Crossan’s book, *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, in preparation for a lecture series by Dr. Crossan which was held at St. James in May. Later in the spring we hosted a well-attended Container Gardening workshop by FoodNL. Many who took part successfully grew vegetables in small spaces during the summer months.

Of course, I like to get out of the building to hold worship. This year we held outdoor services for the summer solstice (National Aboriginal Sunday) in June, an end of summer worship and bonfire on Middle Cove Beach on August 31, and Autumn Equinox (September) and Winter Solstice (December) services at the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice on Mount Scio Road.

On the third Friday of each month I find myself at Stella’s Circle with Rev. Pam. Here I lead a drumming circle as part of her Spiritual Journeys program. This is a wonderful fun and meditative hour and a chance to meet some interesting people, and I took part in events such as their Alternative Services and the Huron Carol Concert.

I also had the opportunity to work with other groups in various ministry roles. These included:

- Preparing and running the Children at Conference program, with my daughter Hannah, during the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference meeting.
- Helping to develop the Cosmic Walk programs as part of the Programs Committee for the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice.
- Chairing the Christian Development Committee of East District.
- Serving on the interfaith Pride Faith committee.
- Drumming and singing with Stella’s Circle.
- Teaching *Worship in Youth Ministry* at Queen’s College.

The 9:30am Worship Services continue with members of Sight Restored leading the music every second week. Beginning in September, Rev. Pam and I began a team ministry of sorts to see St. James through the transition time of the Joint Needs Assessment process and search for a new full-time minister. Thank you for your support as we both adjust to our new roles and responsibilities. It continues to be a great joy to serve this community of faith in so many various roles. You allow me to challenge myself and others to grow and explore our faith.

And finally, thank you for the love and support you offered at the time of my father's death in November.

Blessings,
Susan

11. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Children and Youth Programs)

2016 was a very successful year for the Christian Education Committee!

Sunday School

As always, Christian education for our children took place on Sunday mornings during the 11am Worship Service. While numbers are small, the children we have are very committed. Their families love the programs we offer, and the kids are learning a great deal from the Godly Play lessons. In September, with Rebecca starting a placement at Cowan Heights for her schooling, we were grateful to have Sarah Norman step in to take on the weekly running of the Sunday school. She started what has become known in Sunday School as Messy Sundays. One Sunday a month the activity is messy with paint or other such items. This is a fun day for all and a chance to do more interactive crafts. We wish to thank Sarah, the youth, and all those who help make St. James' Sunday School a success.

Youth

The Youth Group was active as always, meeting once or twice a month, and taking part in the Go Project again. In the summer, two youth travelled to Saskatoon, three joined the St. John's program and five youth, with leader Katie Vardy, travelled to Halifax. All the youth experienced many adventures and growth in knowledge about themselves and the communities they visited. The youth led Sunday worship to share their stories with our congregation in July and October. A huge thank you from the youth, their families and the committee goes out to the entire congregation for the continued support of youth programs and the Go Project. A special thank you to Katie Vardy becoming a joint leader of the Youth Group with Rebecca over the past year! She is a wonderful addition to the leadership and great support to Rebecca.

Liturgical Dance

At the beginning of 2016, both the Junior and Beginner dance groups attended regular Saturday practices, with four members in the junior group and two members in the beginner group. The beginner group, as well as their teachers, Katelyn Mayo and Jennifer Bartlett, presented Liturgical Dance during the 11am Easter Sunday service. The junior group, led by Katelyn Mayo, danced during the 11am service on May 15, and their weekly practices finished mid-May. The beginner group, joined by their teachers, danced again during the Sunday School closing service, and then finished their weekly practices in early June. Both groups stopped practices over the summer and then resumed in September under the same leadership. The Beginner Group offered their Christmas dance during the 11am service on December 18. Due to scheduling conflicts, the junior group was unable to dance before Christmas and took a break from weekly practices in mid-November, planning to resume in the new year.

Many thanks to those who have assisted in any way to the success of our programs in the past year.

Gloria Le Feuvre, Chair, Christian Education Committee

12. UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

This year was another busy one for the UCW. We have dedicated and loyal members who are very supportive of each other and of the UCW. We were fortunate to gain three new Active Members: Jean Brown, Helen Taylor and Karen Brown. Eleven of our Active Members changed to Home Members as they were not able to attend UCW meetings. At least monthly, a UCW representative visits them for a social visit and keeps them up to date on the happenings of the UCW.

Our monthly meetings include a worship program and a social time. We would like to thank all those who coordinated the programs this year and those who assisted. Worship programs were themed around a special event of the month such as New Year's, Valentines, Easter, etc. and often included group participation. In October, we had an inspiring guest speaker, Albanita, a refugee from Kosovo, who came to Canada as a young girl. She is also hosting a Syrian refugee family that recently came to Canada. Albanita provided insight into the challenging situations that refugees leave and the relief, but also the adjustments they face in a new country. Our meetings end with a social time, aptly organized by Betty Winsor and Lorraine Boland, with help from UCW members.

Our major fundraisers for the year were the *Spring Tea* and the *Fall Sale and Morning Coffee*. We were blessed with good weather for each event and both were very successful. We are extremely grateful to those who contributed to the sales and to those who supported them. We were pleased to donate \$4500 from our Spring Tea to the church for general operating expenses. Another contribution of \$4500 from the Fall Sale will be made in the New Year.

Our two social events of the year were the closing dinner in May and the Christmas dinner in December. Both were catered by Pat Burton's team, who came through with their usual delicious food and friendly service. In December, a new plan was introduced when the UCW and AOTS combined for the Christmas dinner. Spouses and guests were also invited to attend. This went over very well and is to be continued in the future. Jamie Ruby (husband of Ashley, our organist) entertained with his amazing tricks and stunts. After both dinners, the St. James Guitar Group entertained with spirited music and a lively sing along.

We extend a warm invitation to other women to attend our meetings and to join our group. We are sure that you will find the friendliness and fellowship in the UCW as we do. The meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. The UCW remains a strong, committed and energetic group which has been a valuable asset to the church.

The new Executive and Committee Conveners for 2017 are listed below.

Executive

Past Co-Presidents: Vera Marshall and Jean White
Co-Presidents: Barbara Adams and Betty Pilgrim
Recording Secretary: Karen Brown
Treasurer: Donna Downey
Assistant Treasurer: Sheilah Beckett
Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Baker
Honourary Member: Shirley Bursey

Committee Conveners

Flowers: Betty Winsor
Friendship Group: Winona Kelsey
Membership: Shirley Bursey
Social: Lorraine Boland and Betty Winsor
Visitation: Barbara Butt
Church Council Representative: Rosemary White
Finance Representative: Rosemary White

Respectfully presented,
Barbara Adams and Betty Pilgrim (Co-Presidents)

13. UCW CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

This year I attended three congregational meetings, one educational session relating to St. James becoming an affirming Ministry and eight regular monthly meetings.

In my capacity as the UCW representative on Church Council, I report items of common interest that are happening within our group and likewise, I report back to the UCW items of interest that are occurring within our Church to keep our membership informed and up to date.

Respectfully submitted,
Menetha Dyke, UCW Representative

14. UCW MEMBERSHIP

Our members continue to be an interested, dedicated and hard working group. This led to last year being a very fruitful one.

Some members who found it difficult to attend the meetings were added to our Home List. This meant that they were visited during the year to be informed of the activities and events carried out by the group. I am sure they enjoyed this very much.

The Phoning Committee continues to do great work. They remind members of monthly meetings and any other matters that might arise. The callers are Nina Abbott, Muriel Baker, Joan King and Shirley Bursey. We were pleased to add Vera Marshall and Lorraine Boland to make up the numbers needed. Thanks to all.

My wish for all of you is that 2017 will be a healthy and prosperous one, and we shall be thankful for all our blessings.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Bursey, Convener

15. ST. JAMES UCW - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

Year Ended December 31, 2016, with comparative figures for 2015

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH WOMEN STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

RECEIPTS	2016	2015
Envelope Collection	1,868	1,803
Thank Offering		133
Birthday Barrel	25	28
Spring Tea	4,041	4,119
Fall Sale	5,947	5,790
Closing & Christmas Dinner	2,407	1,446

Donations	<u>600</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 14,888</u>	<u>\$ 13,367</u>

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES**

Year Ended December 31, 2016
With Comparative figures for 2015

EXPENDITURES	2016	2015
Mission & Service	3,000	3,000
East District - Membership Fee	560	560
East District - Chaplaincy	50	50
East District - Annual Meeting	36	30
St James Church:		7,500
Roof Fund		100
Memorial Fund		0
Operating Fund	4,500	
Spring Tea	129	96
Fall Sale	81	90
Honorarium & Recognitions	122	200
Closing & Christmas Dinner	2,612	1,411
Donations:		
Burry Heights	50	50
Operations Eyesight		0
Stella Burry		400
Cooperation		167
Miscellaneous	201	37
Service Charges	<u>49</u>	<u>37</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>11,390</u>	<u>13,691</u>
Receipts over/(under) Expenditures	<u>\$ 3,498</u>	<u>\$ (324)</u>

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
STATEMENT OF CASH POSITION**

Year Ended December 31, 2016
With Comparative figures for 2015

	2016	2015
Cash in Bank January 1	\$ 3,138	\$ 3,462
Receipts over/(under) Expenditures	3,498	-324
Cash in Bank December 31	<u>\$ 6,636</u>	<u>\$ 3,138</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the Statement of Cash Position of St. James United Church Women as of December 31, 2016 and the Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenditures for the year ended. My Examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of accounting records as I considered necessary in the circumstances beyond accounting for the receipts in the books.

With the exception noted in the previous paragraph, I report that in my opinion the accompanying Statement of Cash Position and Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenditures present fairly the Cash position of St. James United Church Women as of December 31, 2016 and the results of its cash transactions for the year than ended, on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Aubrey Hill

16. ST. JAMES UCW VISITATION REPORT

“Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13

This year is my thirteenth season along with 3 other members in the ministry of visitation. We have seen many changes over the years: members are getting older, some who are unable to care for themselves, resulting in their taking up residence in nursing homes, retirement centers or assisted living centers.

To date there are 11 sick/shut in members; 8 of these members moved into a retirement center, nursing home or assisted living facilities in the past year. The eldest member will be 100 years old in July, and she is doing well.

These women have given of their time and talents to the UCW in the past and certainly want to be kept up to date on the activities of the church and the UCW. The purpose of our visits is to reach out and minister to those who cannot get out to church or to our monthly meetings. This ministry provides fellowship, simply listening, holding hands and having a prayer at the end of each visit.

We made a total of 47 visits and 17 telephone calls; 4 greeting cards, birthday wishes as well as ‘thinking of you’ cards were sent to some of these members. Generally, a telephone call is made prior to our visit to ensure that the member in certain cases is available and agreeable to a visit.

The goal in the ministry of visitation is to be a good listener to show that we care, respect, honour and value them, and to let them know they are still a cherished part of the church family and the UCW. We offer the gift of touch, warm smiles and often bring a treat or two.

All 11 of these members were visited throughout the Christmas season, bringing beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts, cards and treats which are always met with delight and are very much appreciated, especially if it’s chocolate!

At this time I wish to acknowledge the team members: Jean White, Rosemary White and Vera Marshall, who have been with me from the beginning of my ministry. I wish them a heartfelt “thank you” for their

continued support to me and their dedication to our home members. To Rev. Pamela for her commitment and support, “thank you.”

“You gave me your time, the most thoughtful gift of all.” Dan Zadra.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Butt

17. MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

During 2016 the Ministry and Personnel Committee consisted of four members: Heather Hickman, Bryce Hodder, David Adams and Clyde Flight, Chair. As chair, I want to express my deep gratitude to other members and thank them for their work throughout the year. Their commitment to our congregation is deeply appreciated and has made it possible for the committee to accomplish what it has over the past year.

On behalf of the congregation, we express our gratitude and appreciation to the following who served St. James with dedication and hard work. Their various ministries help make St. James the place and congregation it is. A big thank you to:

- Full time minister prior to August 31, Rev. Terrie Jackson, and then, as lead Minister, Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
- Minister of Visitation: shared by Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald and Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
- Minister of Christian Education and Youth: Susan Sheppard
- Office Administrator: SuAn Randall
- Maintenance/Janitorial team: Lorne Hollett, Linda Martin, and Keith Davis
- Organist/Adult Choir Directors: Amy Dalziel and Sophia Werden-Abrams, Ashley Ruby and Emma Clark
- Choir director for youth, men and women: Doreen Brown and accompanist, Gillian Burry
- Treasurer: Jean Thompson

Thank you to all other folks who filled in from time to time.

Ministry and Personnel acts on behalf of the congregation of St. James United Church to carry out the following (and other) responsibilities:

- Support communication between the congregation, ministry personnel and staff
- Review salaries, benefits, working conditions, etc., with all staff and make appropriate recommendations to the Church Council
- Clarify responsibilities and lines of accountability with all staff
- Review position descriptions with ministry personnel and staff and recommend changes, as necessary, to the Church Council
- Consult with ministry personnel and staff regarding continuing education needs and plans and make recommendations to the Church Council to ensure time and money are made available
- Conduct regular performance reviews of ministry personnel and staff
- Work to resolve conflict at the earliest possible stages

There were unexpected changes in personnel this year. Rev. Terrie decided to take a position at Sherwood Park, Edmonton, at the end of the summer, and our music directors Amy and Sophia moved on to further their careers in music. We are fortunate that Susan and Rev. Pamela agreed to increase their responsibilities while the Congregation is going through the Joint Needs Assessment and Search process. We are indeed grateful to them for their willingness to serve in this manner and have been offering them our prayerful support through this transition.

We were fortunate to secure Ashley Ruby as our Organist and Emma Clark as our Senior Choir director beginning in September, and the Music Ministry of the Senior Choir continues to be a vibrant part of our worship.

The main focus of the Committee's work this year was to complete the work with our Ministry Personnel to clarify job descriptions. Those who participated in the evaluation process of Susan and Rev. Pamela were glowing in their comments and expressed their appreciation of the excellent manner in which they both have carried out their duties.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Flight, Chair

18. PROPERTY COMMITTEE

This Property Committee report presents the operations and maintenance activities for the year and the actions we have taken to preserve our asset, using our own human resource expertise and staying within the budget approved by Council. No major projects were planned for 2016.

The oil/heating/electrical cost this year was on par with the budget of \$26,000. Repairs and maintenance were approximately 10 percent over budget due to the aging of our facility.

A number of 50 year old zone valves for controlling the heating within the church were replaced last year and are working very well. We had an inspection carried out on our electrical panels with no major issues identified except the older panels in the church and auditorium which are still functional and safe but need replacement. It was recommended that separate light switches be installed for lighting in lieu of using the panel circuit breakers as switches. The three electrical subpanels within the older part of the church require replacement. One of the main electrical junction boxes within the commercial stove in the kitchen malfunctioned in late December and had to be replaced at a cost of \$850. It is anticipated that further electrical work will be required to the electrical wiring in 2017.

Your Committee along with Council will be looking at the stained glass window initiative for the Sanctuary windows. Further dialogue/information will be forthcoming to the congregation in the summer of 2017.

It is still proposed that we relocate the baby barn on the church property to take care of our maintenance equipment and storage, and make it easier for our maintenance personnel to move equipment.

The ongoing building maintenance and inside cleaning, lawn mowing, snow entrance/exit doors, office management of property were performed for the most part by hourly paid staff.

The gull problem on the church roof is still a little nuisance re aesthetics and will be reviewed again in the summer 2017. The proposal from the professional firm ORKIN in the amount of \$9,600 has been reviewed by Council and was not within our financial capabilities in 2016. A cheaper solution such as the bird on a flex wire presently being used by Mile One is still being considered if funding becomes available.

The snow clearing/ice control agreement in place with MUN has continued very well without any major difficulty to St. James or its congregational members. A number of parking passes are available for special occasions and MUN vacates the parking lot for St. James funerals and other special functions. The parking

lot, specifically the asphalt, needs to be repaired, and a number of areas within the lot require crack seal repairs and a complete new asphalt coating.

The budget for normal operation and maintenance appears to be sufficient to keep the operations moving forward in a neutral direction. The difficulty arises in maintaining the budget amount when the Church requires a major capital expenditure or an allowance for unknown emergency expenses.

The Property Committee also thanks those who assisted with flower beds this past year, and we will be seeking assistance from the congregation to help with the planting and maintenance of flower beds and trees around the church during the summer of 2017. We did receive a number of accolades from the congregation and the general public again on the main flower garden adjacent to Elizabeth Avenue, thanks to Bert Wedgewood.

The former manse lease with Hillcrest Daycare came to an end in October due to a business decision by the company to close the day care operation. Our asset is presently being considered for lease or other potential functions. The new council will review all potential options for the facility in 2017. Your comments with respect to our way forward to generate funding would be appreciated.

The committee's goals for 2017 are as follows:

- To maintain St. James operated facilities to the standards that will provide safe, long-term viability for staff, congregational members and external rental users.
- To research and remain current on new products and equipment used in the maintenance and operation of the buildings and to seek our own resources to assist with related work that require attention.
- To assist with the preparation of the annual operational budget and provide input into any capital expenditures required in the buildings within the next 5 years.

I would like to thank the direct members of the committee: Lorne Hollett, Keith Davis, Oliver Wellon, Linda Martin, and especially SuAn Randall for assistance with booking and invoicing, rental schedules and other property related requirements along with her regular duties. A note of thanks is also extended to others who assisted in other aspects of keeping the facility and grounds in good condition. Thank you to the church elders, especially Phil Saunders, for their continuous assistance, recommendations and support along with our own St. James clergy who keep us in tune and who also assist in property matters.

The Property Committee is always looking for new members either to serve on a task report or just for an individual repair that has been identified.

Best regards,
Anthony Paul, Chair

19. ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Our committee met at the call of the Chair as needed to assist SuAn Randall in the running of the church office and to keep the congregation informed of the life and works of St. James. Robert White and Glenda Winsor kept our website up to date; Katie Vardy and Susan Sheppard posted items on social media; and SuAn sent out weekly emails to over 270 members.

Noah Morrith continued working on archiving our records; his focus in the next year will be to start the digitizing process of our many photographs.

In January, we ordered 400 boxes of givings envelopes for 2017. By ordering early, we qualified for discount rates.

In February SuAn took a three-week holiday to New Zealand, and our committee was very successful in finding dedicated volunteers to run the office. Thank you to Bill Pike, Karen Brown, Glenda Winsor and Annie Brown for filling in.

At our April Coffee Hour we celebrated our volunteers and cut a cake for the occasion. It is impossible to thank each person individually when you consider that everyone at the church is a volunteer: our ushers, scripture readers, communion servers, PowerPoint/sound people, musicians, AOTS, UCW, Sunday School teachers, committee chairs and members, GO Project supporters, East District reps, our youth, garden tenders, those who bring food for coffee hours, kitchen helpers, fundraisers, those who decorate the sanctuary throughout the year, Project Grace supporters, our librarian, Visitor assemblers and especially our zone captains who deliver over 400 pieces of mail at least three times a year, sometimes more. How can we ever thank you? Blessings to you all.

With the help of two summer students, Alex Hickman and Katie Vardy, we were able to continue with the day-to-day running of the church last summer. They worked on the historical role and the memorial books, compiled a list of members who were confirmed in the last 10 to 15 years with a view to finding “where they are now,” prepared a brochure for weddings, and updated our Office Procedures Manual. Katie Vardy and Rev. Terrie Jackson compiled excellent resources for the Visioning Process at St. James. We are thankful for the work Alex and Katie did and wish them well in their studies.

We prepared *The Visitor* three times this year, printing 333 and emailing 273. Each time more than 35 zone captains used their own cars, fuel and time to deliver them; Canada Post delivered less than 40. In the fall there was an extra communications delivery, and we are extra thankful for their dedication.

I wish to thank our committee members: Linda Babstock, Glenda Winsor, Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, Noah Morrith, and Karen Brown. Although we have few face-to-face meetings, we share information and ideas through email to complete the work of the committee. Thank you also to Glenda Winsor and Phil Saunders, our eagle-eyed proofreaders, and many thanks to SuAn who works tirelessly to respond to all our requests.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Winsor, Chair

20. ST. JAMES AOTS MEN’S CLUB

Introduction: The AOTS Men’s Club continues to play an active role in the life and work of our congregation through community outreach, volunteer support, and in worship and stewardship initiatives. Our club met on the third Wednesday on a regular monthly basis throughout the year, and our dinner meetings, with guest speakers, were well attended.

Outreach: As in past years the Club assisted Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald and Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray with the regular monthly services at Pleasantview Towers (formerly Hoyles-Escasoni). The Christmas Carol Service at Pleasantview Towers was thoroughly enjoyed and was attended by Club members and members from the congregation and community at large, in spite of the challenging weather on that day. As in previous years, a Christmas service was conducted at Kelly’s Brook Apartments, and this was deeply appreciated by its residents. As part of our community outreach, our Club also volunteered once again for the Kiwanis Music Festival.

Ministerial/Congregational Support: The Men's Club Choir continued to be very active in providing choral support at various church services throughout the year. The Choir enjoys strong interest amongst its members, and we are most appreciative of Doreen Brown's ongoing leadership. In addition our Club assisted Susan Sheppard with Youth Programs including the preparation of their pancake supper.

Stewardship/Projects: The Men's Club undertook a number of fund raising projects throughout the year in support of its financial contribution of \$6,525 towards the 2016 budget of St. James. In addition, the Club contributed \$500 to the Mission and Service Fund. We extend deep appreciation to club members for their dedicated support of these projects and especially thank David Hapgood, Aubrey Hill, Melvin Burt and Albert Styles for taking the lead roles with meal preparation for these projects.

Social/Visitation: The Club's Christmas social was shared with the members of the UCW and other invited guests. A lovely evening was enjoyed by all in attendance with the sincere wish by all that this will become an annual shared event. During the year Rev. Bill Coish and Oliver Wellon maintained regular contact with club members with health and related challenges.

Membership: As of December 31, there were 32 active members in our Men's Club. Our 2016-17 Executive are Past President: Leslie Dean; President: Clyde Flight; Secretary: Bruce Hunt; Treasurer: Aubrey Hill; Vice-President: William Butt; Projects Co-ordinator: David Hapgood; Outreach: Ron Robbins; Visitation: Oliver Wellon; Men's Choir Co-ordinator: Bruce Hunt

Financial Statement/Balance Sheet: The audited balance sheet of revenues and expenditures for the St. James AOTS Men's Club for 2016 is appended and is an integral part of this annual report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie J. Dean, Past President, and Clyde Flight, President

21. ST. JAMES AOTS MEN'S CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

Assets

Bank Account	\$1,972	
Less: o/s Cheques	<u>784</u>	\$1,188

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	<u>189</u>	
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Net Worth as at December 31, 2016 \$ 999

Auditor's Statement:

Almost all of the revenue disclosed in the attached Statement was by cash, (ticket sales etc.), so I am unable to do a complete audit. However, all of the expenditures were in order, so I am satisfied the statement shows a true picture of the 2016 Financial Year.



Phil Saunders
Auditor

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND
EXPENDITURES**

For Year ended December 31, 2016

Bank Balance as of January 1, 2016

\$1,215

REVENUES

Dinner meetings			
Revenues		\$1,286	
Expenditures		<u>829</u>	
NET			<u>457</u>
Catering			
Revenues		3,780	
Expenditures		<u>810</u>	
NET			<u>2,970</u>
Fish Dinner			
Revenues		5,260	
Expenditures		<u>1,436</u>	
NET			<u>3,824</u>
Membership Dues			410
Donations/In Memorial			<u>610</u>
			1,020
TOTAL REVENUE			<u>8,271</u>

EXPENDITURES

Donation - Church			6000
- Memorial Fund			25
Mission & Service Fund			500
Gift – Rev Terrie			100
Guest Speakers			400
Membership Dues to National			405
Funeral Expenses			43
Men’s Choir Organist			100
Lunch for Senior Service			45
Kitchen Equipment & Supplies			475
Christmas Dinner			364
Sunday Morning Coffee			15
Bank Service Charges			15
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			<u>8,487</u>

Revenues over (under) expenditures (216)

Bank Balance as of December 31, 2016

\$ 999

22. WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

The Worship and Sacraments Committee welcomed Louis House as chair, relieving Susan Pike who was acting chair following Laun Shoemaker's departure. We also welcomed Kennedy Collins as youth member.

Ushering

Dave Hapgood maintains the very important position of head usher. He has done very well in finding people able to welcome congregants and visitors as they enter St. James, even in the busy seasons such as Christmas. We are grateful to David and those individuals and families who have graciously offered their time to the service of ushering.

Worship Team

The Worship Team continued to meet frequently to schedule regular services guided by the Lectionary and including the various choirs and musical groups who provide exceptional music ministry to our congregation. Special services, which were well received, included presentations by the Guitar Group, the PWC Chorale and the Memorial Hymn Sing. Our Music Program continues to experience challenges with maintaining membership in all choirs. Our Music Directors have provided guidance and active input to service planning and the music program.

We were sorry to see Sophia Werden Abrams leave in June following her Convocation from MUN. We wished her (and Josh) the best as she returned to her home province to explore her career in music and conducting. To our surprise, Amy Dalziel followed suit and resigned effective August 31. She and her partner in life have moved to England to pursue further training and experience in their respective fields. We miss them both and thank them for their commitment and dedication to Music Ministry at St. James.

We especially thank and commend Doreen Brown for her continued dedication and unwavering support to the music programs at St. James, especially as Director of the Youth/AOTS/UCW choirs. We find we must depend on her goodwill much too often! With a slight change in direction, we were fortunate to fill both the choir director and the organist positions fairly quickly. We welcomed Emma Clark as Choir Director and Ashley Ruby as Organist. Both have remarkable music resumes and experience, and we appreciate all they have done to promote an active and vibrant music program at St. James.

We also recognize with thanks and appreciation, the members of all our choirs for their participation in the 11 am services; Sight Restored for their ongoing commitment especially to the Contemporary Services; the Guitar group who are ever ready to assist; and all who have shared their talent with the congregation through music throughout the year.

A special thank you is also extended to all those who have read Scriptures, or Minutes for Mission, and/or participated in the special services in various ways.

Communion Report

Karen Brown continues to work very hard in her leadership of the communion sacrament, and it shows. Whether it is in organizing servers, preparing the sacrament or cleaning up afterward, Karen's warmth and generosity and readiness to give of her time are precisely what St. James needs for this very integral part of Christian worship. We owe much thanks to Karen and those who helped her this year.

Youth Proposals

Worship and Sacraments supported the proposals brought forward by the youth of the church:

1. That St. James accept same sex marriage, sexual identity or gender orientation with no barriers.

2. That St. James work towards becoming an affirming congregation.

The vote for these proposals took place in the Spring by the congregation and both were approved.

Final Words

The Worship and Sacraments Committee's ability to facilitate worship services in all their components despite the many obstacles inherent in this kind of organization, speaks to the members' commitment to and personal investment in the congregation of St. James. This is a diverse group of individuals whose efforts not only ensure the success of worship at our church, but are fine examples of loving service and generosity.

Respectfully submitted,
Louis House, Chair

23. EAST DISTRICT DELEGATE

The United Church Conference NL Spring East and West District met June 2-5 in Creston, Burin, Red Harbour and Epworth Pastoral Charge. Meetings were held at College of the North Atlantic in Burin.

Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu Constituted the Court. The theme, "We cannot keep from singing," was led by Rev. Jocelyn Cook and Sid Woolfrey, and they shared stories of the power of music and spirituality and what music meant to them. Reports were read from Districts, Conference and General Council.

Rev. Faith Marsh-MacCuish, Executive Secretary East District, introduced to the Conference (as a whole) with help from the Commissioners work from the General Council 42 that brought forth 8 Remits of varying timelines for voting. Three Remits were introduced to the Court in this session and will be voted on by Districts in this session. Five Remits were introduced and will be sent to Pastoral Charges to discuss and prepare to vote.

This is an important process, and I will introduce my report on Remit 1 by quoting the National Church's summary "Addendum" (category 3 Remit Study Guide for Remit 1: Three Council Model). This Remit proposes major change to the structure of The United Church of Canada. Currently we have four courts, or levels, of church decision-making structure: Pastoral Charges, Presbyteries/Districts, Conference and General Council. It is proposed that the church have three councils, or levels, with specific ministries and responsibilities. The proposal does not simply remove one of the existing courts but replaces both of the current middle courts with a new regional council. The intent of this reorganization is to create a sustainable and workable church structure in the face of a declining volunteer base and financial resources.

The 42nd General Council approved, subject to a Remit, a new three council model for the United Church. Districts and presbyteries are asked to vote to test the will of the church with respect to this model. Discussions and voting dates will be announced.

Highlights

1. A new item on Nominations Vacancies on East and West Districts and Conference: Persons who wish to fill a vacancy to serve must complete an expression of interest sheet, to be approved by Conference executive.
2. The 2016 recipient of the Macpherson Trust for the Holy Land Visit was Rev. Dr. Tony Newell.
3. President-Elect of the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference was Rev. Bill Bartlett.
4. Rev. William Coish celebrated 50 years of ministry.
5. The Conference was led in worship by the Youth of the Conference.
6. Sunday Celebration of Ministries was held at Zion United Church, Collins Cove, Burin. At this event Ms. Hope Rowsell was acclaimed as president of the NL Conference.

7. The new Moderator of The United Church of Canada is Rev. Jordan Cantwell. It is an office she will hold for two years.

For further information and other resources: The GC42 Workbook, CRTG 3 A Three-Council Model, Plenary 14-21 (pages 336-343): www.gc42.ca/workbook
www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Baker, East District Delegate

24. THE GENERAL PROTESTANT CEMETERY REPORT

It is my duty as our representative to submit my annual report. Not only am I your representative, I am also a Director on the Board of Trustees. We represent 18 member churches.

The Board had another very busy year. We continued with monthly meetings. The new cemetery, Memorial Gardens, has taken up a lot of time. We presently have had seven burials at this location. We can expect more activity as time goes by because space is limited at the other cemeteries. There are still 50 niches available in the columbarium at Mount Pleasant.

There were a total of 244 burials during the year; 68 percent were cremations.

We now have a Field of Honour at Memorial Gardens, which is approximately 14,400 square feet, together with a concrete pad for a future monument, a concrete walkway from the parking lot and a 25 foot flagpole on a concrete base. Funding was provided by the Last Post Fund.

We are blessed with an excellent and dedicated staff. Feedback from the public is excellent. Thanks to St. James members for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Barnes

25. PROJECT GRACE

Project Grace is now celebrating its Fifth Birthday, and we are thrilled to continue our partnership with St. James United Church to offer this wonderful program to the children of our community.

In January we welcomed a new Site Supervisor to our fold: Robyn Quigley joined the team and led our students in daily group activities, youth orchestra (PGYO) rehearsals and performances! We were thrilled to have Miss Robyn with us for the second half of the school year, and we wished her well as she moved home to Labrador to pursue her school teaching career.

Project Grace was very lucky to also have new community donors come on board. In April, we accepted a donation of \$6,500 from 100 Women Who Care, as well as \$2,500 from the VOCM Cares Foundation. A generous donation was also made by the Canadian Federation for University Women, and two beautiful trumpets were donated by a private citizen.

The children had busy winter and spring semesters, performing with the orchestra at several concerts and performing many solos. The choir program at Cochrane Street United Church continued until June, but we

decided to roll the programs into one for fall and now both orchestral and choral activities take place at St. James from Monday to Thursday weekly. We finished the school year with a beautiful Season Finale featuring the PGYO playing “Half Minute Waltz” solo and ensemble performances by each studio and all of our students singing together “Count on Me” by Bruno Mars.

In August, we ran our sixth annual summer music camp. Nearly 30 students attended, our largest music camp yet!! Students performed solo and ensemble pieces on violin, cello, flute and trumpet – check out our Facebook video page to see them play (facebook.com/ProjectGraceNL).

In September, Project Grace had a record number of applications – over 30 new children applied, resulting in registration of approximately 50 students for the year! We have a wonderful faculty including 10 teaching artists (see list below) and maintain a busy schedule four afternoons a week at the church. This year we started a brand new percussion class and reintroduced the clarinet class. We have several new Teaching Artists join as well: Andrew McCarthy for percussion, Kathryn Stewart for clarinet and Dominic Greene for violin. Due to the influx of students, we also started a fourth violin class which Mr. Dominic teaches. We now have beginner, junior, intermediate and senior violin groups! Miss Gillian has taken over the two flute classes, and the remaining lessons are taught by those who have been with Project Grace for several years. We are thrilled to have such a wonderful group of Teaching Artists with us.

The students had several exciting performances during the school year, playing in our own Semester Showcase in December, followed by the Coastal Dance Company’s “Holiday of Hope” show at Holy Heart Theatre. There are many opportunities to hear the students play in 2017! Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep up with all the Project Grace news!

As always, Project Grace is grateful for the endless support of St. James, especially SuAn Randall who is so helpful. If you would like to drop in and see the program in action, we welcome you to join us Monday through Thursday from 2:45 to 4:30 pm. We are happy to show you around! Finally, donations of any kind (financial, volunteer time or supplies and instruments) are always greatly appreciated.

www.projectgrace.ca

projectgracenl@gmail.com

facebook.com/ProjectGraceNL

SPECIAL DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 5 – Teaching Artist Faculty Recital, 2 p.m. in Suncor Hall at MUN School of Music.

Wednesday, March 29 – Chapters Night in Support of Project Grace, 6-8 p.m., Chapters, Kenmount Road. 15 percent of all purchases will be donated to Project Grace.

Sunday, April 2 – Winter Semester Showcase, 3 p.m. at St. James United Church, featuring the PGYO and other performances.

OUR TEACHING ARTISTS

Gillian Sheppard, Flute
Kathryn Stewart, Clarinet
Dominic Greene, Violin
Cleary Maddigan, Cello
Eric Probst, Trombone

Alix Stuart, Piano
Naomi Brown, Violin
Susannah McKenzie-Sutter, Violin
Michael O’Keefe, Trumpet
Andrew McCarthy, Percussion

OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

Gillian Sheppard, Executive Director
Marilyn Sheppard, Administrative Volunteer

Jean Thompson, Treasurer
Ashley Sheppard, Head of Curriculum

Jillian Rica, Chartered Accountant
Meaghan McCaw, Lawyer
Dr. Barbara Maddigan, child/youth psychologist
Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Stephen Pike

Bridget Wilkinson, NLESD teacher
Amy Henderson, Business and Arts NL
Trevor Bartlett
Patricia Young
Rev. Miriam Bowlby

Respectfully submitted,
Gillian Sheppard, Executive Director Project Grace

26. BRIDGES TO HOPE

Bridges to Hope is an Incorporated Ministry of The United Church of Canada and operates in partnership with St. John's area United and Presbyterian congregations. The volunteer Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from each of the partner churches plus five community representatives. We operate from offices and facility on Cookstown Road in St. John's, with an Executive Director and other staff, and a host of volunteers.

This year our Food Pantry served approximately 9,000 clients, providing approximately 5,500 food hampers. We aim to provide nutritious food to all who are in need. We depend upon food donations from various sources. Each of our partner congregations collects food donations regularly and through special food drives throughout the year. We also benefit from food drives which our corporate sponsors conduct, and we receive some food from the Community Food Sharing Association. Despite the generosity of the many individual donors, it is not enough to satisfy the need. It is particularly challenging to have sufficient fresh food, especially dairy, vegetables, fruit and meat. Some of our supporters have collected food in lieu of birthday gifts and as part of the admission to special events. We encourage these and other initiatives. Of course, we also encourage monetary contributions.

Our Community Kitchen, with Chef Jodi, and our Community Kitchen volunteers have been baking bread and supporting the community through instructional cooking programs.

Bridges also partnered again with St. John's Rotary during Christmas on the annual Christmas Hamper campaign. Over 325 hampers were assembled at St. Andrew's Church and distributed to clients by Rotarians, HMCS Cabot, Bridges to Hope staff and volunteers.

Other programs offered by Bridges to Hope in collaboration with other organizations include education support initiatives such as Bag to School and Passion for Projects. The Bag to School initiative is supported by Exxon Mobil and other sponsors. The Passion for Projects initiative provides supplies to schools for students doing projects such as heritage and science fairs.

Bridges to Hope appreciates the help and support of all its partner congregations as well as many corporate and community supporters. This year, the nine partner churches contributed a total of \$14,400. All individual donations are recognized directly by Bridges to Hope. There is also a donation through PayPal feature as part of our website.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Angel
Chair, Bridges to Hope