



# St. James Visitor

*Hope Peace Joy Love*

Christmas 2018

## GREETINGS FROM REV. BRIAN COLBOURNE

**"O Come let us adore Him. He is Christ the Lord."**

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is difficult to believe that another year has rolled by and once again we are preparing for the Christmas newsletter and all the activities that go along with the season. The signs of the season are all around us, and the familiar sense of excitement is lingering in the air. Signs serve to direct us along the way, warn us of certain dangers, and even give us hope for something good to happen.

Many signs were given in the Old Testament directing people to the coming of the Messiah. The Gospel of Luke reminds the people that the promise has been fulfilled and the Messiah has come. It was the very first Christmas, with singing and gifts, gatherings and celebrations.

Television did not play a big part in my own childhood, but the piano was the center of our family gatherings. Our mom, with her musical skills, would often gather the family around for a family sing-along. This was especially meaningful around Advent and Christmas. In more recent years, Gail and I have our own special memories of family and home. The joy of looking into the eyes of our children and seeing the excitement and wonderment that has been passed on to another generation is a blessing in itself.

As I think about family and home, I am also reminded of the many families who are displaced throughout the world, like those who have been driven from their homelands or have been forced to leave their homes because of fear and oppression.

We live in a much different world than that of my childhood. However, the Advent and Christmas season remind us that we do not journey alone. Even in the world of constant change, God is with us and God has equipped us with the gifts needed to deal with the changes and assist others along their journey as well.

As I reflect on this past year and my time with St. James, I can't help but be thankful for the blessings of being part of this church family. Your support and encouragement for my ministry is very much appreciated.

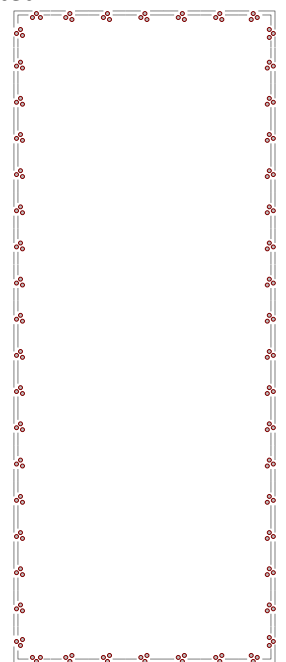
As a congregation, we have had to say good-bye to many dear faithful members, and we have also been blessed to welcome others who have come to join our church family. We have seen the departure of Rev. Pamela as she moved on to take up her new position with Gower Street United Church. We wish her all the best in this new chapter of her ministry.

I am very thankful for the dedication and great work of our Church Council and its various committees, also for those who provide the ministry of music and outreach. It is a joy to work alongside Susan Sheppard and the important ministry she brings with her work. You all play an important part in the ministry of St. James. I look forward to the year ahead, working with you and getting to know more people in our church family.

Worship is such an important part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Special services are planned again this year as a part of those celebrations in which we invite you to come out and share. A copy of the "Worship Schedule" is provided in this Newsletter.

Gail and I wish you and yours a Happy and Joyous Christmas and a brighter sense of Hope for the New Year. May we continue to work together, ministering to each other and spreading the Good News of the Gospel.

God Bless you all, Rev. Brian





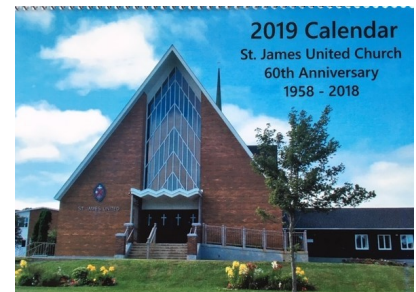
### ST. JAMES GUITAR GROUP by George White

The members of the St. James Guitar Group have been very active during the past few months. By the end of the year, besides our weekly practices, we will have played nine times at Seniors' Homes as well as five times at Church functions. We enjoy the camaraderie of the group, but our highest reward is seeing the smiling faces of the seniors as they sing along with us. We were especially pleased this year to welcome Rev. Brian into our group; his great musical skills are becoming known to the congregation.

Of course, we always enjoy performing at various Church functions, and we sincerely appreciate the wonderful support from the members of the congregation. It is our wish that the true Spirit of Christmas be with you all during the Holiday Season and throughout the year ahead.

### St. James 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar

The 60th Anniversary Calendar for 2019 is a fund raising project sanctioned by the Anniversary Committee and our Church Council. The calendars are a random pictorial history of St. James and have been available for over a month. We thank those who have made a purchase and, like any fund raiser, success is measured by the support provided. To date we have just managed to cover the cost of producing them. We need your help to make this endeavour a success !!! The calendars are available through the church office (722-1881, ext. 200) during regular office hours or can be ordered by email at [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org) and are available before/after any Sunday church service. Cost per calendar is \$20. We will deliver to you, if requested.



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

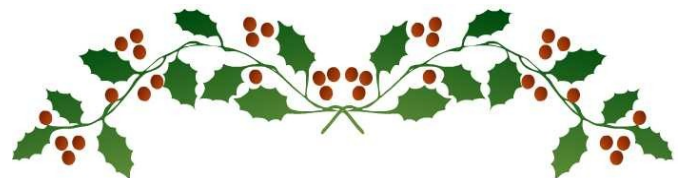
**Sunday, December 9**, following the 11 am worship service, to discuss the Visitation Program and the status of the Minister of Visitation position. If you would like to participate in our interim Lay Visitation Program, please contact SuAn, 722-1881, ext. 200.



### CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 23 Advent 4 LOVE  
9:30 am Contemporary Worship  
11 am Service with the Senior Choir

December 24 Christmas Eve  
6:30 to 7:30 pm Family Service with  
Senior Choir/Youth/Sight Restored



### CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

Week of December 17 to 20: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Monday, December 24: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday, December 25 & 26: **closed**  
Thursday, December 27: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Monday, December 31: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Tuesday, January 1: **closed**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE UCW** - by Barbara Adams**"Count Your Blessings"**

It was 5 pm on Friday, November 23, when I sat back to contemplate what to write for the Visitor. I could list all the activities of UCW but wanted something different. It was a cold, blustery evening. Winter has come here too early! As I looked out the kitchen window, I was struck by the beauty of the scene. The ground was covered with a fresh layer of sparkling snow. Looking across the road, I saw one home already decked out with Christmas lights, casting a colourful glow on the white snow. Inside, by the warmth of our glowing fire, we felt very cozy. However, it was the night of the Hymn Sing for St. James Anniversary week and we had to leave as the Guitar Group was playing for the service.

We got to church early as the congregation was just beginning to arrive. It was a small but substantial group of people. My eyes immediately spotted two of our oldest active UCW members, 90 year old Shirley Bursey and 91 year old Joan Barbour. "Wow, they braved the weather to get here"! I admire these ladies immensely with their spirit and "joie de vivre." My pew mates and I then mentioned Ruby Hiscock, another active UCW member who will be 100 in December and almost never misses a church service. What inspirations they are!! We are blessed to have them among us.

The service began and Rev. Brian warmly welcomed the congregation and talked of the joy he personally experiences from music. We settled back for the beautiful program, primarily put together by Amy Dalziel, our Associate Music Director. It flowed like clockwork. The music was so joyous with the powerful organ music and the wonderful music of the Guitar Group. The congregation rousingly sang out the hymns. The hour went by and we all left with a smile on our faces. We truly experienced the "joy of music." It was a wonderful way to spend the blustery, cold evening, and we were glad we came.

One of the hymns that evening was "Count your Blessings, Name them One by One." There was a time when I did this every night before settling to sleep, pushing aside any negative experiences throughout the day. I don't know why I gave it up. Although there is much strife in our world and, as we get older we are all dealing with various personal and health issues, there are always blessings, even in seemingly negative situations, if we look for them.

In keeping with the theme of this message, Dr. Brenda Kelleher-Flight was the guest speaker at our UCW November meeting. It was considered important that we learn more about members of our congregation and she has much to share. Her message was very inspiring. She instilled hope and showed us how we can find the good in almost any situation.

We can also find blessings in the activities of the UCW. The UCW Annual Fall Sale was held on November 4. It is heartwarming to see the willing effort that our (aging) women put into this event to make it a success. This is a big way that we can contribute to the life and work of our church, enabling us to hand over a cheque for \$4000.

**The UCW is an open group. Please join us and be welcomed and inspired by the other UCW women you will meet. Our meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the church auditorium.**

*Find Joy in small experiences.*

*Close your eyes and feel how Christ works in your life.*

*Look back and be thankful for all the blessings you received.*

*Have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!*

Please sign up for our weekly Congregational Emails: [info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org)





Joyce on Knitted Goods Stall

**UCW FALL SALE**



The Bake Shop



Happy Guests



Nina and Betty on Crafts Table



Gloria and Linda in the Kitchen



Menetha and Florence on Surprise Bags

**Winter** brings its share of challenges for St. James, one of which is keeping the floors of the Auditorium, Fellowship Room and Youth Church salt free. Please consider bringing indoor shoes with you when you visit the living rooms of St. James.



**DO NOT keep any valuables in your car**, particularly over the holiday season; and especially **DO NOT** keep anything visible when parking in our parking lot. There are "Sallywags" everywhere.

**Refundable cans and bottles for recycling** that you wish to donate to:

**\*St. James Youth Ministries:** Please bring them along to the Recycling Depot's O'Leary Avenue location (behind Car Quest Auto Supplies building) and let them know they are for St. James, 722-1881. Hours of operation for the depot are Monday to Friday 9 am-4:45 pm and Saturday 8:45 am-4:45 pm.

**\*Project Grace:** Drop off recyclables at any Green Depot, and let them know they are for Project Grace. For their hours of operation, call 725-4529.



### 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER



Rev. Dr. Donovan & Wendy Brown



Bill Legge, MC



Vera Marshall



2018/11/16



2018/11/16



Rev. Brian and Gail Colbourne



Katelyn Mayo



Rev. Ralph Taylor and Emma

### CELEBRATORY SERVICE



Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown, Minister Emeritus



Wendy Lowden, President of NL Conference

### COFFEE HOUR FUN



Rev. Ralph Taylor, our First Ministerial Candidate who was today's Guest Preacher, and Trevor, Chair of Council



Shirley Bursey, Founding Member, and Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown, our First Minister, cutting the anniversary cake



Our Sunday school children building on the next 60 years



**FINANCIAL REPORT** For the interest and information of the congregation, here is the breakdown of contributors between January and October 2018. St. James wishes to extend gratitude and thanks to all who contributed their money, time and resources to our Church community. Please keep us in mind during the Christmas season!

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR PAR YET?**

### COLLECTIONS RECEIVED JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2018

Amount Received	Number of Contributors
\$0	142
\$1 to 100	49
\$101 to 200	44
\$201 to 500	110
\$501 to 750	47
\$751 to 1000	28
\$1001 to 1500	28
\$1501 to 3000	21
\$3000 to 5000	6
> \$5000	1
Total Contributors	476



This Donate button is available on the front page of our website to facilitate credit card donations. Often, this method is used to donate in honour of or in memory of loved ones. Please visit [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)

Please note: The financial year end will be December 31. Please call our Treasurer, Jean Thompson, if you have any questions.

### GUY MATTHEWS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Rev. Guy Matthews, a minister and friend to most of us, underwent Heart Transplant Surgery in Ottawa in late Sept. Guy is doing very well but a fundraising appeal has been established to help the Matthews Family deal with the Financial stress associated with this surgery.

Your donation clearly marked "**Guy Matthews Assistance Fund**" can be made in several ways:

- Send / drop off donation to St. James Church office at 330 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9.
- Drop your donation in the collection plate at a regular Sunday service.
- Email money transfer to [guymatthewsmedicalfund@outlook.com](mailto:guymatthewsmedicalfund@outlook.com)
- Online through the Guy Matthews Medical Assistance Fund Go Fund Me website <https://www.gofundme.com/guy-matthews-medical-assistance> Google "go fund me" and then search for "Guy Matthews"

More Information regarding this fund raising can be found on the St. James United website

<http://www.stjamesuc.org> or by contacting Stephen Pike @[stephen.pike@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:stephen.pike@nf.sympatico.ca) or (709) 765-2438

On behalf of the congregation, the Church Council extends a special thank you to the members of the UCW and AOTS for their support during the year. Their efforts to organize special events and make financial contributions to M&S and the life and work of the church are greatly appreciated.



**Project Grace Christmas Semester Showcase**, Sunday, December 9, at 3 pm in our Sanctuary. Admission is by freewill offering.



**A Christmas Festival of Carols and Choirs**

Sunday, December 16, at 7 pm.

St. James will host an evening of Christmas music: a congregational carol sing alongside performances by the Senior Choir and various groups from the St. John's community.



Admission is by freewill offering.

**bridges to hope**
  
 NEIGHBOURS FEEDING NEIGHBOURS

Please remember Bridges to Hope. Bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Chest when you come along to any service so we can help our neighbours.

<b>COFFEE HOUR</b> December to April	
December 16, 2018	CD/Sunday School
January 20, 2019	Administration/Stewardship
February 17, 2019	Choir
March 17, 2019	UCW
April 21, 2019	Worship and Sacraments

**Memory Tree Form**



Christmas is a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus. As with all special celebrations, we remember with fond and loving memories those who are no longer with us to share in these occasions. One of the ways our congregation acknowledges this is through the Memory Tree. For a donation of \$5, a coloured bulb will be changed to a white one in memory of your loved ones.



The changing of the lights is a beautiful seasonal visible symbol. Even when the tree comes down, the gift continues in our Life and Work. Please have your form in by noon on Monday, December 17.

Name of person donating: \_\_\_\_\_ Your envelope no. \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Env #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Accessibility at St. James United Church**

**Hearing devices**

**Wheel Chairs**

**Enlarged Bulletins**

If you wish to use either of the above services we offer, please check with one of our ushers and they will be happy to assist you.



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

#### January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Youth Group 7-9 pm	7	8 Book Group 7-9 pm	9	10 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	11	12
13	14 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm Writers' Circle 7-9 pm	15	16	17 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	18	19 Tech Time 10-12 noon Potluck and Games 6-9 pm
20 Youth Group 7-9 pm	21 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm	22	23	24 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	25	26
27	28 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm Writers' Circle 7-9 pm	29	30	31 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm		

#### February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Youth Group 7-9 pm	4 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm	5	6	7 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	8	9
10	11 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm Writers' Circle 7-9 pm	12 Book Group 7-9 pm	13	14 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	15	16 Tech Time 10-12 noon Potluck and Games 6-9 pm
17 Youth Group 7-9 pm	18 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm	19	20	21 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	22	23
24	25 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm Writers' Circle 7-9 pm	26	27	28 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm		

*Merry Christmas from SuAn, Bruce, Linda, and Keith*





### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES (cont'd)

#### March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Youth Group 7-9 pm	4 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm	5	6	7 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	8	9
10	11 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm Writers' Circle 7-9 pm	12 Book Group 7-9 pm	13	14 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	15	16 Tech Time 10-12 noon Potluck and Games 6-9 pm
17 Youth Group 7-9 pm	18 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm	19	20	21 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	22	23
24	25 Sewing Studio 3-6 pm Writers' Circle 7-9 pm	26	27	28 Not a Bible Study "Painting the Stars" 7:30 pm	29	30
31 Youth Group 7-9 pm						

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Not a Bible Study** *What does it mean to be a Christian? Got doubts about stories in the Bible? Can our churches engage and grow their congregations in our secular society?* Join this new, open-minded book club as they begin to explore what it mean to be Christian or to have faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Open-minded people of all ages, races, denominations and faiths -- skeptics, atheists, believers too -- are welcome!

**Youth Group** Open to all youth. We meet downstairs at an accessible venue. For more information, **contact Susan Sheppard**, DLM, at the church office at **722-1881, ext. 204**, or [susan@stjamesuc.org](mailto:susan@stjamesuc.org).

**Susan's Sewing Studio Social Group** Looking to join a sociable group? No matter your gender, age, ability or faith, drop in anytime between 3 and 6 pm. Bring along a project you are working on or start a new one. Relax, sew, chat, laugh, receive help and friendship from others in a very informal atmosphere! No cost! Just bring your own materials and sewing machine.

**Tech Time** Bring your electronics along for assistance in solving the many mysteries hidden in today's gadgets. Whether it is simply extracting your photos from your phone or unraveling a tangly software issue, bring your problem.

**Writers' Circle** Need help with an assignment or writing creatively? Join the Writers' Circle, a participant-driven, informal, friendly group open to everyone! Come relax, chat over coffee or tea and write.



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE - January to April 2019

Date	Time	Details	Music
January 6	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship Celebration of Epiphany <b>Communion</b>	Senior Choir
January 13	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship Baptism of Jesus <b>Baptism</b>	AOTS/UCW/Youth Choirs
January 20	9:30 am 11 am  3 pm	Contemporary Worship 2nd Sunday after Epiphany <b>Coffee Hour—Admin/Comm</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service <b>Reception to Follow</b>	Senior Choir
January 27	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Senior Choir
February 3	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 4th Sunday after Epiphany <b>Baptism</b>	AOTS/UCW/Youth Choirs
February 10	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 5th Sunday after Epiphany <b>Communion</b>	Senior Choir
February 17	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 6th Sunday after Epiphany <b>Coffee Hour—Senior Choir</b>	Sight Restored
February 24	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 7th Sunday after Epiphany	Senior Choir
March 3	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship Transfiguration Sunday <b>Baptism</b>	AOTS/UCW/Youth Choirs
March 10	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>Communion</b>	Senior Choir
March 17	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>Coffee Hour—UCW</b>	Guitar Group
March 24	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Senior Choir
March 31	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	AOTS/UCW/Youth Choirs
April 7	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent <b>Baptism</b>	Senior Choir
April 14	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship Palm Sunday	Sight Restored
April 19	10 am 7:00 pm	Family Good Friday Prayer Walk Good Friday Service	Senior Choir
April 21	9:30 am 11 am	Contemporary Worship Easter Sunday <b>Coffee Hour—Worship &amp; Sacraments</b>	Senior

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[info@stjamesuc.org](mailto:info@stjamesuc.org)  
[www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)  
Facebook: St. James United Church  
Twitter: StJamesUnited

Full-time: Rev. Brian Colbourne  
Youth and CE Ministry: Susan Sheppard, DLM