



Summer 2023

# THE VISITOR

Official Newsletter of St. James United Church

## FROM THE RISING

of the sun  
to its going down,

*the Creator's name*

IS TO BE PRAISED

PSALM 113:3

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Welcome.

The summer is starting and most are taking a break from work, school, and possibly in-house church gatherings.

But that doesn't mean you can't have St. James with you on your journeys. This online edition can be available anywhere you want to go. Download it to your tablet and read at the cabin, on holiday, or in the comfort of your back yard.

This version also helps with the daily costs of printing our newsletter, so you may want to contact the church office to make it a permanent option instead of a paper copy mailed to you.

Enjoy the warm weather and experience the joy of creation this summer.

Sincerely,  
Glen Warren, Editor

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@StJamesUnited



st.JamesUC



StJamesUCNL

*Worship with us!*

**Saturday, 4:30 PM**

**Sunday, 11:00 AM**



## Ministry Message

JAMES RAVENSCROFT

The summer is upon us and for many that means heading out of town, perhaps to a summer place out around the bay or to a favourite camping spot in a provincial or national park. Some may go further afield and visit loved ones on the mainland while others stay home and putter around the garden. Whatever it may be, this is a time for many of us to rest, relax, and recharge.

We all need this time, especially after a busy year. As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, the church started to buzz with activity again, albeit not to pre-COVID levels. Groups were meeting, fundraisers were organized, special events were celebrated. Add into this busy schedule lots of work being done on the renewal of our Mission Articulation Plan along with a reworking of St. James' Constitution and Bylaws and discussions about future ministry partnerships. I am tired just thinking about it all.

Those extra pieces of work speak not so much to the year that was but to what is unfolding. As we live in to our future, we will need energy and insight, another good reason to take this summer time to recharge. As you do, may you take time for prayer, prayers of gratitude for the work of this past year, prayers of hope for the year to come, prayerful dreams that the Spirit places in our hearts.

NOW LEARN THIS  
PARABLE FROM THE  
FIG TREE: WHEN ITS  
BRANCH HAS ALREADY  
BECOME TENDER, AND  
PUTS FORTH LEAVES,  
YOU KNOW THAT  
SUMMER IS NEAR.

*Mark 13: 28*







# The Long View

*View: An interesting word, outlook, frame of mind, approach, scenery*

Today I'm pondering "points of view."

I'm recalling the morning of March 11, 2020. My daughter called from Halifax: "Are you listening to the news?"

"No, why?"

"The WHO has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic."

We were immediately isolated, had our groceries delivered, purchased masks, following Dr. Fitzgerald's quidence religiously, vaccines and boosters became vital. Our world was changed forever. How do we view it all now?

This led me into the view our church council envisaged while dealing with COVID 19. All ingathering were cancelled. Church officials got down to work. Volunteers were garnered to reach out to our congregation via telephone, email, and online services. When regulations were lifted church re-opened. Council consulted on a daily basis. Careful planning was paramount. Safe distancing, no hand shakes, no passing of the peace, no passing of offering plates, communion elements were packaged in disposable bags. Diligent work continues. "Long view" plans are ongoing. Thanks to the team of dedicated workers.

Lastly, the "long view" of summer.

Summer months are time for rest and relaxation outside enjoying our Father's world. Warm summer breezes, a rushing stream, beauty of trees and flowers, abundance of birds, animals and insects and, right now, the magnificent icebergs.

Summer may find us travelling. If we encounter people who are different from us in colour, culture, or circumstance, let us see them as people with features, names and personalities to appreciate and understand.

Whatever our summer plans, let us take time to be still and know that back of, and over, and under the whole universe is God. We can come back to our daily routine and say with the psalmist, "O Lord, how manifold are your works".

Vera Marshall - United Church Women





# TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Financial Update – Below is a financial update to where we are at the end of March 2023 versus where we should be Budget wise.

Revenue:	Revenue:	Budget:
Envelopes	\$39971	\$47700
Special Envelopes	\$2976	\$2125
Rentals	\$5053	\$5500
Other	\$6275	\$11250
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$54275</b>	<b>\$65875</b>
Expenses:	Expenses:	Expenses:
Heat	\$17400	\$8750
Lights	\$1687	\$1500
Insurance	\$16343	\$14000
Church	\$9937	\$10625
Assessments/Donations	\$4035	\$4035
Committees	\$166	\$1200
Salaries/Allowances	\$48890	\$43842
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>-\$98458</b>	<b>-\$83952</b>
<b>Net Loss:</b>	<b>-\$44183</b>	<b>-\$18077</b>

As you can see, at the end of March we have a net loss (deficit) of \$44,183.

Back at the Annual General Meeting in March the congregation did vote to accept a deficit budget of \$11,510. We as a congregation have lots of work to do over the next seven months to try and reach or come close to our budget.

1. The reason the revenue is down is a slight decline in the envelope givings and less fundraising.
2. Our heat is up and that is due to the cost of oil. The cost has fluctuated a lot since the budget was approved by council back in December.
3. The insurance cost rose by about 8% over last year.

The Finance Committee will give you updates each month to let you know where we are financially.



# QUADRANGLE NL

June is pride month. St. James has been an affirming congregation for a few years now and has had some new occupants in one of our rooms in the last few months.

Recently I sat down with Charlie Murphy, Executive Director of Quadrangle NL, to discuss their organization and how they came to be part of St. James United Church.

*Thank you Charlie for meeting with me and first I want to ask what exactly is Quadrangle?*

We are hoping to be a physical space welcoming to all members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Newfoundland and Labrador, which will house and offer services and programs designed to create social connections, provide resources, and advance all aspects of health and the quality of life for our community through inclusion and diversity, community development, collaboration, and recognition. Quadrangle is just in Newfoundland and Labrador but there are other similar organizations across the country. We are the only solely mandated 2SLGBTQIA+ charity of the province.

*Why come to St. James United Church?*

I've done work with the St. John's chapter of PFLAG and they were always being invited to the diversity fairs here at St. James. Eventually Quad was invited to the fair. It's always been positive and nice. Rev. James asked where we were located and I mentioned we were looking for a space. It's been interesting to tell people that we're in a church space. Will they be upset or uncomfortable knowing the office is located in a church? So far, it's been great! Everyone who we've had in the space for our special events before the opening have felt very welcomed and safe.

Seeing how so many other organizations work out of this space acts more like a community hub which is what Quad is hoping to be.

continued on the next page.



*Do you think attitudes have changed towards gay people within the church?*

The concept of religion is more of a challenge than being here in St. James. The history of the church and its treatment of 2SLGBTQIA+ will be a challenge. It's a journey we will have to go on. It also helps the church in having a conversation about gender and sexuality. This church and the United Church, in general, has made the intention of having a conversation about the harm the church has done in the past. Quad needs to be part of that discussion. Us being in this space is helping with the healing process.

*How can St. James support Quadrangle?*

That's an interesting one. Talk to your MHA about us, donate, and ask the questions. Questions that are more relevant to the community as a whole, not the individual. Find ways to participate in something Quadrangle is doing. Come to a dinner, or bingo night, or dance. Knock on our door and introduce yourself.

*Where do you see Quadrangle in the future?*

We'd love to have our own dedicated building on a piece of land with a lot of green space. We could have a coffee shop, a bookstore, and even a medical clinic, counselling, meeting rooms, offices, archives, and more. Creating a community hub for small businesses that could be incubated and grow for the queer community. We are currently trying to do research, service provision, programs, space, as well as getting a building. This should have existed 30 years ago. The community has been talking about this space for this long. Having a physical space where you can just feel comfortable being yourself would help a lot.

Glen Warren

To find out more about Quadrangle NL, visit their page: [thequadnl.com](http://thequadnl.com)





# Pastoral Care



Traditionally pastoral/spiritual care, in the context of our church, is perceived as one of the duties of ministry personnel. As compassionate care is part of human nature, the capacity for passionate care in the form of a listening ear, words of acknowledgement, and acts of kindness – small actions such as sending cards and notes that say “...thinking of you...” or a birthday greeting; over time that view has expanded to include supportive, pastoral presence by ministry personnel as well as lay members of the congregation.

How many of you have experienced such caring during times of loss like the loss of a loved one – the losses experienced during that change and grief of moving of one way of living to another? How many have experienced the support of a co-worker or friend upon the loss of a job, a time of moving from one town to another, the loss of a friend due to differences that cannot be mended? All such instances show us the value in and make apparent the ways we do pastoral care together.

When a committee of lay persons and ministry personnel is formed such as we have here at St James United pastoral care becomes a collaborative effort amongst congregants, the pastoral care team, and ministry personnel – we all have a role to play – one very important part of the pastoral care role is communication. Unlike the olden days personal information regarding a person’s health is no longer made available to pastoral care providers (ministry personnel or lay) by our health authorities. Thus, if you or a loved one would like a visit while in hospital it is a good practice to let your pastoral care provider know so a visit can be arranged...

All of this does not negate the special pastoral relationship between ministry personnel and congregants – there are times when persons desire the presence of their minister and feel more comfortable sharing what is on their heart in that shared relationship.

We, your pastoral care committee invite you to take part in the pastoral health of our congregation.

Blessings in the Season of Pentecost – the season of summer...

Pastoral Care Committee

# Volunteer Week Celebrations



**ST. JAMES CELEBRATED VOLUNTEER WEEK IN APRIL. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS.**



# Celebrating Diversity

Since 1990, July has been recognized as Disability Pride Month. While this has mostly been happening in the United States, the concept is starting to catch hold elsewhere. As a disabled man, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the reasoning behind this.

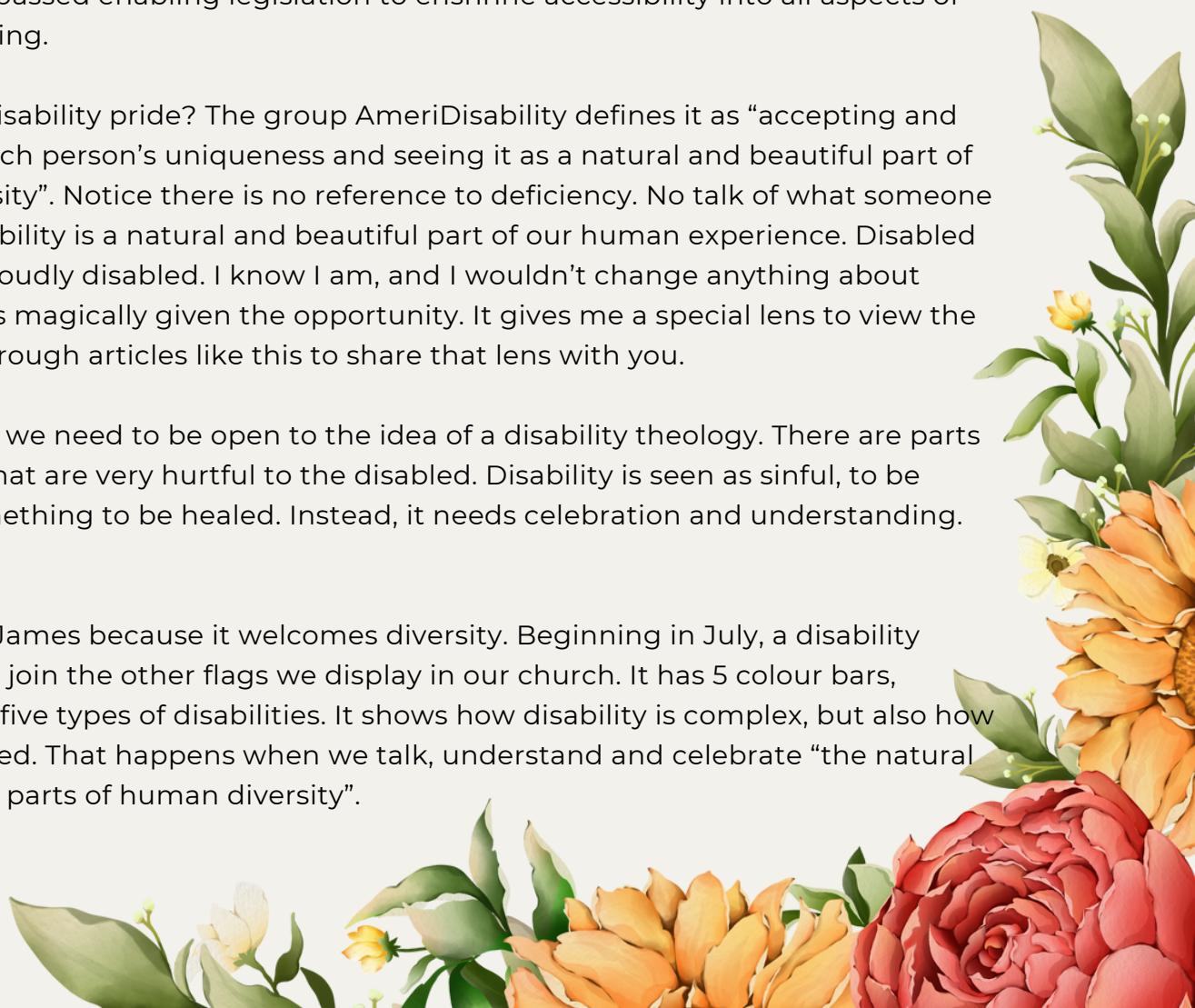
On July 26, 1990 the Government of the USA passed the ADA – the Americans with Disabilities Act. This was a milestone in that such legislation didn't exist anywhere. In Canada, many provinces have followed suit, led by Ontario. Last year, our provincial government passed enabling legislation to enshrine accessibility into all aspects of decision making.

But what is disability pride? The group AmeriDisability defines it as “accepting and honouring each person’s uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity”. Notice there is no reference to deficiency. No talk of what someone can't do. Disability is a natural and beautiful part of our human experience. Disabled people are proudly disabled. I know I am, and I wouldn't change anything about myself if I was magically given the opportunity. It gives me a special lens to view the world, and through articles like this to share that lens with you.

As Christians, we need to be open to the idea of a disability theology. There are parts of scripture that are very hurtful to the disabled. Disability is seen as sinful, to be pitied, or something to be healed. Instead, it needs celebration and understanding. It's complex.

I came to St. James because it welcomes diversity. Beginning in July, a disability pride flag will join the other flags we display in our church. It has 5 colour bars, representing five types of disabilities. It shows how disability is complex, but also how it can be united. That happens when we talk, understand and celebrate “the natural and beautiful parts of human diversity”.

Paul Walsh





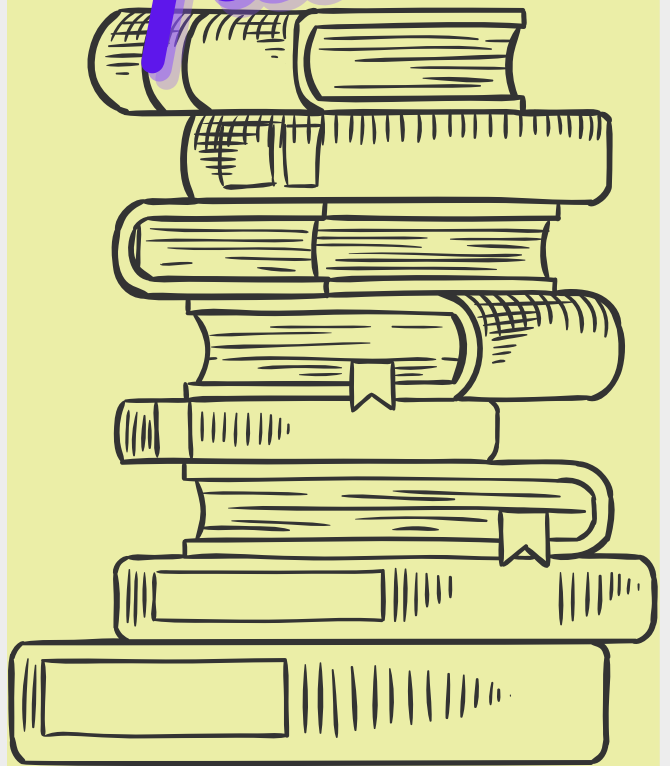
# Catching Up



These two women, both named Shirley, hadn't seen each other for years and reunited at St. James during a recent service.

it's always great to catch up with old friends at the church.

## Have faith!



United Church Bookstore has faith in our books—and our church supplies, magazines, and gift items! Many of our books and other products have been developed by The United Church of Canada, but we also distribute books and supplies from other sources.

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## GIDEON'S HORN

How can blowing a horn win a battle? Gideon listens to God and leads an army to victory in a surprising way. Make your own horn and fill it with treats this summer.

### Ingredients

- waffle cones
- mini marshmallows
- semi-sweet chocolate chips

- If using a grill, preheat grill to medium-high heat, about 375 to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Fill waffle cones with alternating layers of mini marshmallows and chocolate chips (plus any other mix-ins you'd like to add). Gently wrap each cone in foil.
- Place wrapped cones on grill grates, or at the edge of a hot campfire. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes, or until melted and gooey inside. Carefully remove from grill/campfire with tongs, allow to rest for 1 minute, then carefully unwrap and enjoy (contents will be hot!).



Change it up and substitute with graham cracker pieces, shredded coconut, peanut butter chips, or slices of banana. Use your imagination!

While the horns are baking, read the story of Gideon and how he helped win a victory: Judges 6,1-7,25







# Mark your calendar!

DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL DAY	WORSHIP LEADERSHIP	MUSIC LEADERSHIP	SPECIAL INFO	FELLOWSHIP
July 2	11:00 am	Pentecost 5	James	Soloist	Memorial Day	Coffee/tea
July 9	11:00 am	Pentecost 6	James	Soloist		Coffee/tea
July 16	11:00 am	Pentecost 7	James	Soloist	Communion	Coffee/tea
July 22	2:00 pm		Wild Light		Location TBD	
July 23	11:00 am	Pentecost 8	James	Soloist		Coffee/tea
July 30	11:00 am	Pentecost 9	Guest	Soloist		Coffee/tea

Aug. 6	11:00 am	Pentecost 10	James	Soloist		Coffee/tea
Aug. 13	11:00 am	Pentecost 11	James	Soloist		Coffee/tea
Aug. 20	11:00 am	Pentecost 12	Guest	Soloist		Coffee/tea
Aug. 27	11:00 am	Pentecost 13	Guest	Soloist		Coffee/tea
Aug. 30	7:00 pm		Wild Light		Beach Communion	

Sept. 3	11:00 am	Pentecost 14	James	Soloist	Labour Day	Coffee/tea
Sept. 10	11:00 am	Pentecost 15	James	To be determined	Communion	Coffee/tea
Sept. 16	2:00 pm		Wild Light		Location TBD	
Sept. 17	11:00 am	Pentecost 16	James	To be determined		Coffee/tea
Sept. 24	11:00 am	Pentecost 17	James	To be determined	Welcome Sunday?	Mini lunch

Oct. 1	11:00 am	Pentecost 18	James	Senior choir?	Communion	Coffee/tea
Oct. 8	11:00 am	Pentecost 19	James	To be determined	Thanksgiving	Coffee/tea
Oct. 15	11:00 am	Pentecost 20	James	To be determined		Coffee/tea
Oct. 21	2:00 pm		Wild Light		Location TBD	

