

Newsletter of St. James United Church

THE VISITOR

For everything God
created is good, and
nothing is to be rejected
if it is received with
thanksgiving, because it is
consecrated by the word of
God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

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Welcome all.

The pace of life shifts as the colours of the leaves start to change. Kids are going back to school, the days are getting a little cooler, and we settle into familiar routines.

That is the same for what is happening at the church. Programs have started up again after the summer break.

Getting involved is easy. Whether for one time or becoming part of a group, all gifts are welcome. Just contact the church office for more information or go online to our website.

There are some great upcoming events, so start marking your calendar.

Sincerely,
Glen Warren, Editor

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Minister:
Rev. James Ravenscroft



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st.JamesUC



StJamesUCNL

**Worship
with us!**
SUNDAY, 11:00 AM



Ministry Message

JAMES RAVENSCROFT

Each year autumn's arrival often brings change. We see this in the environment as fields are harvested and leaves change colour. We experience it in school as children move from one grade into another and build on what they learned the year before. In churches the fall brings a new "program year" and so is often a time to start a new initiative or bring needed renewal to a "tried and true" program.

This autumn brings some significant change to St. James. The biggest change is that Susan Sheppard will no longer be part of our ministry team. Her departure is a sad turn of events for so many at St. James. After all, not only has Susan been on staff at St. James for 20 plus years, more than a decade of which as a Designated Lay Minister, but she grew up here, offered her gifts long before she was paid to do so: sharing her love for music in the Senior Choir; working with the Children's Choir; as part of Sight Restored; shared her artistry in beautiful textile art that still adorns our sanctuary; shared her inquisitive mind in a variety of study groups; shared her love as a good friend and spiritual companion to many. She did all of these and so much more in paid accountable ministry: working with our children, youth and young adults; mentoring upcoming leaders; leading creative worship; developing small group ministries; getting a Forest Church group going. She was always going above and beyond out of love for others.

I know I, for one, will miss her insights and support, her wisdom and creativity, her encouragement as well as gentle challenge. Being in ministry here at St. James will not be the same without her presence. In fact, I wouldn't be here if it weren't for Susan. She is the one who encouraged me to throw my hat in the ring and apply to join the ministry team at St. James. And so, I want to take this opportunity to thank Susan and to wish her many blessings as the autumn brings so many changes in her life as well.

Teach us to
number our days,
that we may gain
a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:1



CHANGES IN THE WIND

I assumed the role as Chair of Council in March 2023. The months following found the congregation facing many difficult decisions.

The proposed pilot project with Cochrane Street caused us to sit back and really look at the future of United Church congregations. While many concerns and fears of the unknown were expressed, in a true spirit of Christian fellowship, the congregation voted to move forward with developing a MOU for the proposed partnership.

The MAP process presented another challenge to our congregants. We were forced to take a hard look at our past and the reality of our future. As we are faced with declining membership and the resulting decline in finances, the MAP process resulted in the difficult decision to move forward with one lead ministerial position. St. James current and projected finances could no longer support an associate ministerial position. It was with deep regret this past July, that Susan Sheppard was given her notice of termination.

Susan's parents were long time members of the St. James congregation. She was raised in faith here and it was here she felt her call to ministry. She moved forward on that journey with the love and support of her church family. Susan was deeply involved with our youth, Sunday School and numerous other initiatives. Her development of the Contemporary Worship service was very well received. It reached and spoke to members of our congregation who were looking for an alternative form of worship outside of the traditional 11am service.

Over the years, Susan devoted hours to St. James that far exceeded what was expected of her. I think those hours came from a deep love of and devotion to her St. James family. While we haven't seen Susan at our 11 am service since accepting a part time position at the Portugal Cove-Bell island pastoral charge, she had been very busy behind the scenes with numerous other forms of worship and initiatives at St. James.

I would like to express the deepest gratitude to Susan for my own personal relationship with her and on behalf of everyone at St. James, for her love, caring and devotion to us all. She will be deeply missed by all whose lives she has touched.

On behalf of St. James, I wish her a happy, content and brilliant future.

Michelle Skinner
Chair of St. James Council

Treasurer's Message

Financial Update – Below is a financial update to where we are at the end of August 2023.

Revenue:	Revenue:
Envelopes	\$101,353
Special Envelopes	\$10,224
Rentals	\$18,662
Other	\$30,662
Total Revenue:	\$160,901
Expenses:	Expenses:
Heat & Light	\$22,605
Repairs	\$5,433
Other Church	\$53,325
Assessments/Donations	\$8,071
Committees	\$701
Salaries/Allowances	\$136,010
Total Expenses:	-\$226,145
Net Loss:	-\$65,244

As you will notice that we have a \$65,244 loss at the end of August. Our revenue is down from 2022 and due to members of our congregation passing away, the cost of living going increasing and decreased giving. Our expenses increased and that is due to the cost of oil on the rise, insurance cost up and salaries have both increased.

At the congregational meeting in July, you approved the revised budge that we would end the year with a \$64,765 loss. By the end of December we will be into our operating line of credit at the bank. We as a congregation will be challenged over the next 3 months to try to increase our revenue through fundraising and reduce our expenses.

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



Church Love Languages

The five love languages describe five ways that people receive and express love in a relationship. Knowing your love language is a way to help you feel loved and appreciated. It's also a way that you can give to the church that has a special meaning to you.

Author and pastor, Gary Chapman's book "The 5 Love Languages" was first published in 1992. Before writing the book, Chapman began to notice patterns in couples he was counseling. That led him to come up with five love languages, or ways that people in relationships express love. They are:

Words of Affirmation
Quality Time
Physical Touch
Acts of Service
Receiving Gifts

While these were originally attributed to couples and how they communicate with each other, they also may help us have a deeper and potentially more spiritual connection with the church and its mission. So how can your love language connect you with the church?

Words of Affirmation

"Words of affirmation" is about expressing affection through spoken words, praise, or appreciation. You may wish to become a greeter so you can express gratitude and welcome people to the church. You can also volunteer to read the scripture each week.

Quality Time

Someone with this love language cherishes attention. They feel loved if you are present and focused on them when you are together. This means making eye contact and actively listening. If you have this love language then pastoral care is your calling. Spending time with others, checking in on them, and having conversations will make your connection with the church all that more fulfilling.

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Physical Touch

A person with physical touch as their primary love language feels love through physical affection. They feel loved when their partner holds their hand, touches their arm, or gives them a hug at the end of the day, for example. Being a greeter is another way of expressing this love language. Shaking hands with all who enter shows how much you appreciate them joining you for worship. Even making a prayer shawl and giving the recipient a much needed hug would be a great help.

Acts of Service

Acts of service are nice things you do for your partner that make them feel loved and appreciated. This may be the easiest love language for some. Volunteering for activities within the church is the most obvious. Becoming part of a community dinner, or helping with fundraising, or even stuffing envelopes for a mass mailing are all acts of service for the church.

Receiving Gifts

For someone who uses and responds to this love language, gift-giving indicates love and affection. They treasure not only the gift itself but also the time and effort the gift-giver put into it.

When you take the time to pick out a gift specifically for them, it tells them you really know them. People with this love language can often remember every little gift they have received from their loved ones because it makes such an impact on them. Delivering a small homemade meal to someone who lives alone, donating supplies to a local food bank, or even knitting some booties for a new baby in the congregation, all these gifts show the mission of the church and its teachings.

Glen Warren



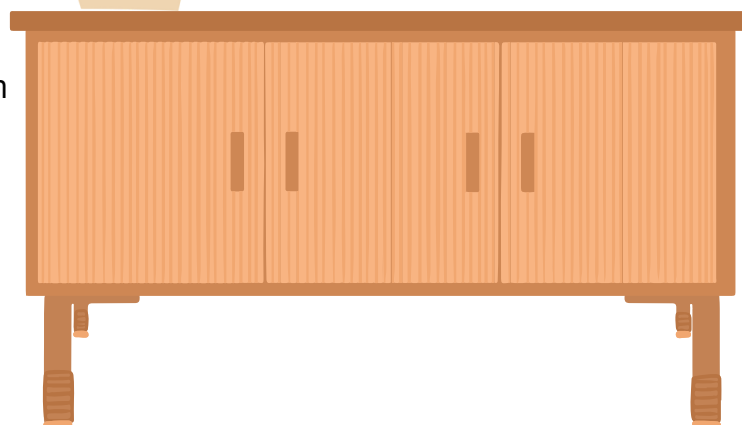
HOME AGAIN FURNITURE BANK

Home Again Furniture Bank is a local nonprofit that aims to end regional furniture poverty, one home at a time. To do this, we collect donations of gently-used furniture to redistribute to individuals and families who had been living without.

Each day, Home Again receives new requests for items as simple as a bed to sleep in or a table to share a meal around. And each week, our volunteers join us to deliver life-changing furniture to some of our region's most vulnerable citizens. The furniture we deliver provides not only comfort, but safety, stability and dignity.

There is a dramatic increase in requests for furniture recently. More and more of our neighbours are struggling. You can help. To learn more, please visit: www.homeagainfb.ca/get-involved or connect with Maureen Lymburner at maureenlymburner@homeagainfb.com

To donate furniture, please visit - <https://www.homeagainfb.ca/donate>.





St. James United 65th Anniversary Dinner Celebrations

LIVE MUSIC | FOODS | PARTY

Friday, November 17, 2023

Start at 6 for
6:30 pm

Emcee: Gary & Lou of NL Now
(Jake Thompson)

**Tickets
\$45**

Featuring:
Wayne Button and Friends
Rachel Cousins



AOTS Fish Fry
FUNDRAISER

Join us for a Fish Fry Dinner Fundraiser to help the As One That Serves Men's Group.

*Friday
October 27*

Stay tuned for more details to come.



St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Ave.

Bethlehem Bazaar

Local Vendors

**SAT, DEC. 2
11AM-3PM**

crafts with kids

APPLE CARDS

You'll need:

- two 6 inch paper plates
- apple seeds
- red poster paint
- green and brown construction paper
- glue
- newspaper to work on
- black marker
- hole punch
- small piece of string or yarn
- Lay the newspaper down to keep things clean and paint the paper plates red. Let them dry.
- Once dry, stack the plates with the red sides facing outwards. Punch a hole through the edge of both plates. Tie the plates together with the string loosely.
- Cut a stem and leaf with the construction paper and glue to the red plates so they cover the holes and string.
- Open the card to write a nice message and sign your name. Glue the apple seeds in place so that the white sides look like the inside of an apple.



Read Psalm 17 when David asks God to “keep me as the apple of your eye.” When you tell someone “You’re the apple of my eye” it means that you are very fond of that person. Who in your life would be someone you’re very fond of?



Mark your calendars!

DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL DAY	WORSHIP LEADERSHIP	MUSIC LEADERSHIP	SPECIAL INFO	FELLOWSHIP
Oct 1	11:00 am	Creation 4	James	Senior Choir	Worldwide Communion	Coffee/tea
Oct 1	7:00 pm	Creation 4	James and Gloria		Story and Song	
Oct 8	11:00 am	Thanksgiving Sunday	James	Senior Choir		
No evening service this week.						
Oct 15	11:00 am	20 th Sunday after Pent.	Social Action Team?		World Food Sunday (Oct 16)?	Luncheon?
Oct 15	7:00 pm	TBA	James		Taizé	
Oct 22	11:00 am	Reformation Sunday	James	Senior Choir	Eradicate Poverty Day (Oct. 17)	Coffee/tea
Oct 22	7:00 pm	TBA	Young adults		Tapestry	
Oct 28	3:00 pm	All Hallows	James		Wild Light Spiritual Oasis	
Oct 29	11:00 am	All Saints	James	Soloist	Communion	Coffee/tea
Oct 29	7:00 pm	All Saints	James		Celtic Vespers	
Nov 5	11:00 am	Remembrance Sunday	James	Senior Choir		Coffee/tea
Nov 5	7:00 pm	Remembrance Sunday	James and Gloria		Story and Song	
Nov 12	11:00 am	Peace Sunday	TBA	Guest group?	Diwali/Int. Day for Tolerance (Nov 16)	Coffee/tea
Nov 12	7:00 pm	TBA	James		Taizé	
Nov 19	11:00 am	Anniversary Sunday	Guest preacher?	Senior Choir	Transgender Day of Remembrance	Luncheon
Nov 19	7:00 pm	TBA	James		Celtic Vespers	
Nov 25	3:00 pm	TBA	James		Wild Light Spiritual Oasis	
Nov 26	11:00 am	Reign of Christ Sunday	TBA	CSU Choir?		Coffee/tea
Nov 26	7:00 pm	TBA	Young adults		Tapestry	