

Keeping in Touch

Fall 2016

NEWS FOR
UCW GROUPS



The National United Church Women

Roots and Wings



Photo: Dreamstime © Zestmarina

Parting Reflections

It has been my privilege, and indeed, a humbling honour, to serve as your president over the past two years. The time

has quickly flown by, and beautiful memories have accumulated in my heart. As I look back, I reflect on all the planning, hosting, conversations, teaching, poverty doll making, work, and worship that you, sisters in faith, have implemented during this time.

We have spent time looking back at our roots and in doing this, we acknowledged that we cannot do things the way we used to. Those roots have given us wings to turn challenges into opportunity. Wings to set us free! Currently, the National United Church Women's communications are carried out by conference call and by e-mail. Your NUCW communications committee is liaising with the Web folks at the General Council Office, so that information can be shared across the country via various links and Web pages. Some of the Conferences/districts offer space for UCW on their websites. We are thankful for all the people who offer UCW a presence through technology.

As we stand at this point in our history, we ask ourselves: What is God up to? What are we going to do next? Our challenge is to listen, to recognize that change/transformation surrounds us and that we are called to a pro-active approach rather than a reactive one. This is a time of renewal and rebirth. Canadians have been quietly inventive over the years. We can claim the zipper, basketballs, paint rollers, and even the pacemaker. This may be a time to look forward with hope and new vision and seek those new adventures!

From coast to coast to coast, we are still engaging the four pillars of our purpose: witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Our faithful units, no matter the number of members, continue to develop and do the work to the best of their abilities. Some supply cookies for the "cookie cottage," others uplift and support camps or deliver meals on wheels, still others create and deliver poverty dolls to those in positions of authority.

The child poverty initiative is now widely embraced across Canada. An important component of this

Service Is a Cornerstone

Witness, study, fellowship, and service are the cornerstones of United Church Women. Muriel Stephenson's poem describes our thankfulness and our hope for the future. Thanks, Muriel, for sharing this poem.



Faithful Service

We thank You that You call us, Lord, to serve You faithfully,
Keep us ever ready, Lord, to serve You joyfully.
Help us to be useful, Lord, in trials to endure,
Help us bring You honour. To be sanctified and pure.
Help us share Your holy word everywhere we go,
May the love You give to us to others overflow.

—Muriel Stephenson, July 28, 2016

initiative is listening and learning in our communities, and speaking out and educating people that charity is not enough. Poverty dolls are not toys, they are symbols to be offered along with information, facts, and figures. This has taken some out of their comfort zones and into politicians' offices.

Developing partnerships and relationships is also an important piece of this work. And our work goes on: Irish stew dinners, Mission & Service, donations to women's shelters, participating in World Day of Prayer, and taking part in refugee sponsorship. We respond to God's call by learning more about truth and reconciliation, and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, leading worship, organizing quilt and art shows, and so much more. Thank you for all you do for so many others.

So, who are we? Some may be called The Mary and Martha Unit, Sisters of Hope, Docas Unit, the afternoon group, unit 1 or unit 2, and so on. There are women in Maritime Conference called WINGS—Women in God's Service. They are not a UCW unit, but a group of younger women who meet and work in their own way at their own tempo. We are thankful for all who uplift others through offering to share their gifts and talents.

And where do we meet? United Church Women meet in their local churches, in restaurants, or in homes. Jean Mac, 99 years of age of Sackville, NB, asked her United Church Women to hold one of their monthly meetings at her home, and they enjoyed a marvellous time of fellowship. Well done, sisters in faith.

These have been an amazing two years, and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of your faith journey. Wherever we are, and however we honour our purpose, we are blessed and know that we are not alone. Amen and amen.

I pray that, according to the riches of [God's] glory, [God] may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through [the] Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:16–17)

Your sister in faith,

Phyllis Buchner
Shalom

Bienvenue, Bienvenido, Welcome

We bid a warm welcome to Nancy Sutherland, our new National UCW President. Nancy comes to us from Bay of Quinte Conference UCW and lives in Peterborough, Ontario, with husband Floyd. Nancy began her UCW journey in 1964, when they lived in Pembroke, Ontario. She has been involved in UCW Pembroke, Port Elgin, Pickering, and Peterborough. She attended the 45th anniversary in Corner Brook, NL, and the 50th celebration in Ancaster, Ontario. In 2012, Nancy was selected to represent Bay of Quinte Conference UCW on the Mission Awareness Project in El Salvador. Nancy brings us enthusiasm for this United Church of Canada and a love of United Church Women. Nancy writes: "I am blessed to belong to the United Church Women—a vibrant, caring, giving organization as we live out our purpose to express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ, in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service." Welcome, Nancy. May God bless your journey.

55th Anniversary Update from BC UCW

UCWs' 55th Anniversary takes place in **Vancouver, BC, July 10 to 14, 2017**. Registration is now open, and 55th anniversary pins are available.

You are invited to join us as we welcome international guests from Morogoro, and our sisters from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and the United Church of Christ USA.

Celebrating Spirit features Ann Mortifee as our plenary speaker and music with Linnea Good.

There will be a varied selection of enrichment sessions to nourish your spirit, a time to tour, and the opportunity to enjoy a gala banquet with our Moderator, Jordan Cantrell, as guest speaker. Registration includes a ticket to the banquet and a limited number of extra banquet tickets will be available for purchase.

Registration packets are available from Conference or district presidents or from BC Conference website. Early registration is recommended to reserve your spot and ensure your first choice of tour and enrichment sessions. British Columbia Conference United Church Women welcomes you to "Celebrate Spirit."

—Sandra Dunning, Committee Chair, Past National United Church Women President

For all UCW matters, e-mail: ucw@united-church.ca.