

Keeping in Touch

May 2017

NEWS FOR
UCW GROUPS



The National United Church Women

Here I Am, Lord

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower,” the hymn tells us (VU 703). And in the seed, there is an apple tree... Winter has passed; the melting snow has watered the grass and plants. Now, with a lovely landscape of green with blooming flowers, spring has sprung, and we have welcomed her with open arms.

Our pilgrims to Kenya/Morogoro are home and anxious to share their experiences. Remember them when you are planning your meetings and looking for a speaker. They will have a wonderful story to tell. Please contact me for names and addresses.

Donations to the NUCW Endowment Fund should be sent to The United Church of Canada Foundation, 3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 300, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4.

We have made the journey to the cross and Easter. “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV) We are thankful for God’s forgiveness. Hallelujah!



Happy 55th Anniversary, Coast to Coast to Coast UCW

An anniversary is a time to take stock of what has gone before and, in our case, 55 years of memories. It is a time to honour those women who took up the challenge to move from the Woman’s Missionary Society (WMS) and the Woman’s Association (WA) to become United Church Women. Change is not easy, and I’m sure our charter members could share the woes of difficult decisions made at that time. Charter members across Canada are celebrating the success of this union. In 1962 we had 300,000 charter members. I would love to know how many are still with us. I’m sure those ladies would have stories to share at one of your meetings.



In January of this year, I was present at a UCW service in Peterborough, Ontario, celebrating the union of two UCW groups as a result of the amalgamation of two large downtown churches—St. Andrew’s United and George Street United. A lady from each of the UCWs lit a Christ candle and in turn another candle, signifying their union. Shining Waters Presbyterial President Anne Smith; Bay of Quinte Conference UCW President, Roberta Plunkett, and I, Nancy Sutherland, National UCW President, participated in the celebration. We then sang “Here I Am, Lord” (VU 509). Truly a memorable day.

Union of two Peterborough UCWs: (l to r) Patti Shaw, George St. United; Anne Smith, Shining Waters Presbyterial; Roberta Plunkett, Bay of Quinte Conference UCW; Nancy Sutherland, National UCW; Barbara Cameron, St. Andrew’s United.

We also honour the ladies who took up the torch since 1962 to keep the UCW alive and well. Our numbers are lower and our ages are higher, but we are still an active, vital part of The United Church of Canada. We are salt and light, carrying out the work of the United Church Women. We are still 25,000 strong in 13 Conferences across Canada. Since 1962, the National UCW has given more than \$130 billion dollars to Mission & Service.



We are looking forward to the **55th Celebration “Celebrating Spirit,”** hosted by British Columbia Conference UCW, **July 10–14, 2017, in Vancouver.** 55th anniversary pins are available. Three beautiful 55th anniversary worship services written by Betty Turcott, Inez Penny, and the Rev. Deb Bowman are available. Come and hear Ann Mortifee, an Order of Canada recipient and a YWCA Woman of Distinction for her contribution to the healing and performing arts. Sing along with Linnea Good, whose primary work is to help individuals and churches express their souls through music. Visit with the Moderator, the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell, who will be our guest speaker at the closing banquet. B.C. Conference UCW is waiting for us. Let’s not disappoint them. See you there. Don’t forget your cameras!



UCRD Book Displays

Book displays are available for special events. UCRD will send you a display of books and merchandise—just call to book.

At least 4–6 weeks’ notice is needed.

Phone: 1-800-288-7365 or 416-253-5456 and speak to Suzette Mungal or Ruth Doyon.



National UCW AGM 2017

The 2017 National Meeting will be held September 25–29, 2017, at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, 1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, Ontario. Some of the pilgrims to Kenya will be with us, and you will have an opportunity to hear about the visit to Morogoro. Thursday evening is being set aside to relive “Celebrating Spirit” with photos, stories, music, and sharing our experience with those who were not able to attend.

At this meeting we will be accepting nominations for President Elect, National United Church Women.

We are in year four of our five-year initiative to End Child Poverty in Canada. Check out <https://fncaringsociety.com/7-free-ways-make-difference>. Bay of Quinte Conference UCW has adopted “Shannen’s Dream” as its own 55th anniversary project. It’s a wonderful story worthy of attention. The consultation for the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy has also been launched. Search online for Canada’s Poverty Reduction Strategy and Advisory Committee on Poverty.

Blessings

—**Nancy Sutherland**

President, National United Church Women

And She Said: Monologues about Biblical Women

by Betty Radford Turcott
available spring 2017

In this book, Betty tells the stories of women in the biblical narrative, using her creative gifts to add a woman’s point of view.

Some—such as Sarah, Deborah, Johanna, and Priscilla—are named in the Bible. Others—like the mother of Rufus—are present but unnamed, and still others are only shadows in the story. The wife of Lot is one such story. There are 43 stories and questions to ponder or discuss with others at the end of each story. Headings include Women at the Manger, Women at the Cross, Women from the Hebrew Scriptures, and Women in the Early Church.

Watch for Betty’s most recent book this spring. It will truly be a bestseller.