



# Keeping in Touch

## NUCW President's Message – “Lead not only by word, but by action”

My thoughts: The Church requires every member to make an effort! “The body needs You”. Are you doing your part? Find a place to serve God, and start contributing whatever time, talent or money is needed. We must take our part of the crumbling wall and rebuild it on a firm foundation. Only on a firm foundation will our faith (and our piece of the wall) survive. You cannot do this project alone. Find others who will work with you to build your firm foundation. Welcome others who would join you in whatever local project you have chosen. Food banks, water projects, school breakfasts, homeless shelters – are some of the places where we can begin our foundation. Be proud of the fact that the United Church Women are gathering across the country to show our support for the great association to which we belong. Even if we are older and cannot do much physical work, we have the experience and the knowledge, gathered throughout our long lives, to help those younger than us to reach out and fulfill the building of the wall. Do not be afraid to ask for help! Some of our younger women might be happy to be asked to help. Maybe they have been waiting for an invitation! We can adjust our meetings to accommodate those who work, have children to care for or even elderly parents to care for. Can we not meet for breakfast, lunch or even supper meetings occasionally. Get to know someone not in your usual circle of friends. This is part of building the wall! This is creating a Firm Foundation! Are we up to the task?

**Hymns:** How Firm a Foundation - VU 660      Let us Build a House - MV 1

**Scriptures:** Nehemiah Ch 2 part of verse 20:

*The God of Heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall.*

1 Corinthians Ch 12 verses 12 – 27:

*The body is made up of many parts etc.*

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, we ask your blessing and your guidance as we continue our journey to rebuild our firm foundation before it can wear away. Help us, as we take some unexpected journeys in the continuance of your plan for all our hardworking, faithful members of our United Church Women. AMEN.*

*Barbara Davison:* National UCW President

## NUCW Past- President's Message - “Where there's Faith there's Hope”

Well, I had hoped to get through with all I had to do, and with my faith, I managed. The Lord showed me the way and answered my hope. Jeremiah 29:11-13, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with your heart”. The Lord tells us that with faith in our heart he will hear our hopes.

I hoped to be a President that understood the needs of the UCW, and hoped to help where and when I could. It has been my honor to be your President. I look forward to seeing where the UCW goes from here. My hope is for a long and fruitful future. I was able to attend a few Regional UCW Annual Meetings and came away with a smile on my face and warmth in my soul. My UCW sisters will always have a special place in



my heart. I hope that I met your approval and didn't let you down. I hope to continue where and when I can, to do the work of my Lord. To show his love and to be his instrument.

I know you are in good hands with Barbara taking over the reins. With the help of all the great ladies of the NUCW Executive and the Lord, I made it through, and she will too. Keep up the good work and all that you do. You, the ladies of the NUCW, are powerful and go-getters. You will get the work done with a smile on your face and warmth in your heart.

With Blessings,

*Nancy Risto:* National UCW Past - President

## Invitation to Prayer



What can we do?

We can Pray for Peace throughout the world, - That cool heads will prevail during discussion to obtain that peace.

We can donate to the Mission & Service Fund stipulating that our donations go to the Ukraine, to Palestine (Gaza) and Israel. It is the ordinary people who suffer in these conflicts, not the high up organizers, who manage to stay out of harms way, whenever possible. These are the people we must pray for.

*Barbara Davison:* National UCW President



## Highlights from the National UCW Annual Meeting, September 18 to 22, 2023

On Monday, September 18, 2023, UCW women from across Canada arrived at Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, for the National UCW (NUCW) meeting. Each Regional UCW was represented by two women. We were about to embark on a busy time of learning, discussion, worship, and fellowship.

President Nancy Risto's theme for her term was, "Where There's Faith, There's Hope", with the scripture Jeremiah 29: 11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you", says the Lord, "to give you a future with hope".

President Barbara Davison's theme is "Lead not only by word, but by action". Scriptures: from Nehemiah 2: 20, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall" and also 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 27, One body with many members.

We gathered with singing before each session, and had morning worship and vespers each day, led by women from different regions. Each day included business meetings, guest speakers, and time with our friends from across the country.

## NUCW Business

Reports were received from our President, Regional Presidents, and others. President Nancy Risto announced that the celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UCW will be held in Ottawa, July 19 to 23, 2027. Win Czum, our representative on the Women's Interchurch Council, reminded us about the 2024 World Day of Prayer service, written by Christian women in Palestine, and to wear black on Thursdays to promote the end of gender-based violence. From Angie Musonza, Church in Mission, we learned that the General Council offices will be moving to 300 Bloor Street in 2025.

In other business, Karen Gardner is retiring as our national secretary. The new secretary is Cheryl Sullivan. We are looking for a Communications Lead for "Keeping in Touch" and other media work. (Further



information in this issue of Keeping in Touch). Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle was elected to another two-year term as our national treasurer. NUCW members volunteered to serve on NUCW committees.

On Thursday, Carolle presented the budget for the coming year, which was passed with a few amendments. Canadian Shield expressed concern that the UCW Handbook does not include procedures to follow in closing a Regional UCW. Appendix 4 will be revised to include this possibility. Carolle led us in a workshop on the future of UCW, and Nancy Risto led a workshop on having a national UCW space where women can meet virtually, even if their unit, area, or church closes.

### **Guest Speakers**

On Tuesday, Joni Shawana, Coordinator of the Healing Fund, spoke to us about the fund, the varied projects it supports, and how projects are chosen. The Fund was established in 1994, and we made it our national UCW project last year. The first project to have funding from our UCW contributions to the Fund is the Regina Native Outreach Ministry's Welcome Bags. These bags contain essentials for new moms and babies, and were assembled, blessed, and given to native women giving birth at the Regina General Hospital. Please continue to donate to the Healing Fund by sending a cheque to the United Church of Canada, with NUCW – Healing Fund in the memo line.

Also on Tuesday, Amy Crawford led us in a Bible Study on Jeremiah 29: 11, and Lori Neale, from Church in Mission, spoke to us about love of creation and care for the environment. Check out the website "fortheloveofcreation.ca", an ecumenical initiative to which the United Church belongs.

Tuesday evening, our guest speaker was Rev. Alison Mock, speaking on "Experiencing Joy". Rev. Mock is a UCC minister, now working as a funeral director. She spoke about how people feel they have to be sad when preparing for a funeral, but said it is also good to have a laugh while remembering the good times. She attempted to show us the Pixar movie "Inside Out", which personifies the emotions within a young girl's head, but there were technical difficulties, so we saw only part of it. In the movie, Joy tries to prevent Sadness from playing a role in the girl's life, but it turns out that Sadness is important after all.

On Wednesday, our guests were our Moderator, the Right Reverend Carmen Lansdown (Kwisa'lakwa) and General Secretary Michael Blair. Michael expressed appreciation for the UCW and encouraged us to stay the course. Carmen spoke about the highlights of her year as Moderator, including a canoe trip with indigenous and nonindigenous youth, and a project where youth were hired for the summer to develop and work on environmental projects.

On Thursday, Lori-Anne Livingstone, UCC press and public relations lead, presented an excellent workshop on high impact communication. Her suggestions included: 1) know your audience; 2) be relevant and objective; and 3) be simple and succinct.

Guest speakers were thanked by Saskatchewan UCCW and presented with a blessing bag by Sharon Prenevoist of Chinook Winds.

### **Entertainment and Worship**

Nancy Risto arranged for the Niagara Men's Chorus to present a concert for us in the chapel at the retreat house. It was enjoyed by all.

On Friday, we closed with a communion service led by Rev. Japhet Ndhlovu, and the installation of Barbara Davison as the new NUCW president. This service was available by Zoom.

Next annual meeting of the NUCW will be September 16-20, 2024, also at Queen of Apostles.

Submitted by: *Margery Wright*



## Virtual UCW Meetings

Starting this spring anyone interested is welcome to send an email with your contact information including what days and times are best for you to join a zoom meeting to Nancy Risto, [nancyssweets@live.com](mailto:nancyssweets@live.com) and you will get an email with the date and time including the zoom link for a time of UCW fellowship and devotions. Looking forward to sharing this time with you.

## National UCW women support Thursdays In Black.



Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org)

Mission "Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in Prayer and Action"

**WICC** World Day of Prayer:

**WDP 2024** "I Beg You- Bear one Another in Love" "Ephesians 4: 1-3 is the theme for the 2024 WDP, written by the WDP committee of Christian Women of Palestine.

- **Resources available**
- Create a Coordinators login account (You do not have to be a coordinator to create an account) to access many free resources:
  - Ideas for a creative WDP event planning guide
  - Promoting WDP
  - Video of a recorded WDP service available to download from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 (Free)  
OR purchase a USB memory stick (\$20.00) that includes the service video as well as Music, a Devotional message, Power Point service that allows you to 'personalise' the service, and a Power point about Palestine that could be shown during your WDP gatherings
- **Festival Day, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, by Zoom, Register Online**





- **Donations to WDP** help to provide grant funding for grass roots programs that support and empower women and children both in Canada and overseas. Donations can be sent electronically or by mails to WICC, 47 Queen St. West, Toronto ON. M5S 2C3
- Lots more information available on the web site
- **Fellowship Of the Least Coin.** A world wide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Christian women around the world pray with each other. Through this, they are reminded to live a forgiving life with others. "Least Coins" are given with each prayer, yet the movement is focused on prayer and reconciliation rather than money. Anyone who wishes to join in prayer makes a commitment to uphold, in prayer, those who are victims of Hatred, Violence, and Injustices.
- **Ending Violence against women and girls.** 'Thursdays in Black' pins (20 for \$20.00) and other resources are available on the WICC web site
- **We-Connect** Newsletter, subscribe on website (free)

Check out the web site for more information about any of the above, plus more, [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org)

### **Frequently Asked Questions about World Day of Prayer Writing Committees (WDP 2024)**

**How is the writing committee chosen for World Day of Prayer?** In August 2017, 188 delegates traveled from around the world to attend the World Day of Prayer International Meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. These women came from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions to pray together, share their stories in community, and make decisions for the future of the movement. It was an executive committee of these delegates who selected the writer committee for 2024.

**How is the theme chosen for World Day of Prayer?** Every five years, the World Day of Prayer International conference is held. Each national committee is given the opportunity to submit a theme, along with a suitable Bible passage. During this international meeting, a committee considers the various suggestions for themes, and then chooses themes as well as writing regions for the next five years. Palestine was chosen to be the writing committee for 2024 and was given the theme on which to base the service.

**What is the membership structure of the World Day of Prayer International Committee?** The WDPIC constitution divides its membership by 7 regions in order not to be restricted by geo-political designations. "Regions" of the world are namely, Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Caribbean-North America and Pacific.

**How should we receive the World Day of Prayer service written by the Palestine writing committee?** Each year the WDP theme and the worship service developed by women of another region is a gift. Receiving it is a spiritual process. It needs time, open hearts and minds, careful listening and speaking, willingness to stretch beyond what is familiar. When we receive the liturgy in a local community, we begin by ensuring that there is an atmosphere that is spiritually open and non-judgmental. In this way we can listen to the voices of faraway women and to the biblical message they want to convey to us. In a climate of attentive listening, we will hear them speak about their hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, and at the same time we will listen to the women next to us and find our own response. We use silence to reflect and pray.

**How do we respond when some people object to the writing committee region?** In 1994 when Palestine was the writing committee for the World Day of Prayer service, Eileen King, then executive director of the International Committee for the World Day of Prayer, reminded participants that the 1994 service was to be understood as one written by Palestinian Christian women, not a Palestinian service. Let us, then, look now for commonalities and avoid polarization. Let us be an example of women working well together with



as purpose to build relationships with women in other regions of the world, and grow and deepen our understanding, in part, by reading our Palestine background information. As the service theme suggests, I beg you ... bear with one another in love.

**Are World Day of Prayer donations given to the writing committee region?** No, donations in Canada support future World Day of Prayer services as well as grants provided in Canada and internationally. World Day of Prayer grant applications are received via [wicc.org](http://wicc.org) and carefully assessed.

**What is the meaning behind the symbol for World Day of Prayer?** The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, people kneeling in prayer, the cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Blessings: *Wia Czum* (NUCW rep to WICC)



## The Healing Fund - update

A thank you to all who have donated to The Healing Fund. Since this project began in September of 2022, to the end of December 13, 2023, UCW women have donated \$22,926.97. The first project that was selected by The Healing Fund Working Group was the Regina Native Outreach Ministry, Mother & Baby Welcome Bags for Indigenous New Moms at the Regina General Hospital. Many of the new mothers do not have these essential items to care for their newborn and themselves. The Welcome Bags provide a tangible and loving start to breaking the cycles of shame passed down from residential schools. Items included in the Welcome Bags: diapers size 1, diaper cream, handknit baby blanket, onesies size 0-3 months, sleepers' size 0-3 months, burp clothes, bibs, baby soap, baby shampoo, baby wipes, nursing pads, menstrual pads heavy flow, small gift for mom such as hand lotion, lip balm, candle. Thank you for your donations.

## 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National UCW

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional UCW (EOR) invite all UCW women from across Canada to join us in Ottawa, Ontario, July 19 to 23, 2027 in celebration of 65 years of UCW. The Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee is Kim Baird from Cornwall, Ontario.

Our theme is "Hear Our Voice".

Our scripture passage is from Proverb 8:1 (Wisdom's Call) "Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?"

Stay tuned for more information as we begin our planning agenda.

See you in Ottawa.

## Meet our new National UCW Secretary – Cheryl Sullivan

Cheryl Sullivan lives in Metcalfe, Ontario and is a member of the St. Andrews UC in Metcalfe, ON. She is a UCW member, on the Worship, Music & Sacrament Committee and is in the Choir. She enjoys helping out wherever help is needed. Outside of church, Cheryl is involved in several organizations, volunteering in various capacities including 4-H, Women's Institute, the Metcalfe Agricultural Society, the Metcalfe Lions, the Metcalfe Community Association and the Osgoode Township Museum. Cheryl currently works at a school as an Educational Assistant. She and her husband, Brian, have 5 children who currently range in age from 26 to 34. Two live out of province and they look forward to visiting them every year. She has enjoyed all of her volunteer positions and looks forward to working with the National UCW Executive Committee.



## Join our National UCW Executive as our Communication Lead

National UCW moved and approved at our Annual Meeting last September to start the process of creating a position of Communication Lead with a yearly honorarium. In this position you will be a non-voting member of the National UCW executive. You must attend the week long Annual General Meeting each year and any sub-executive meetings to which you are invited. Your expenses to the Annual General Meeting will be covered by the National UCW.

The applicant needs a very good working knowledge of computer, email, and social media platforms. The applicant will be working with Microsoft word and excel.

Duties:

- You will hold the position of Chair of the Communications Committee and work with a team of women:
  - To collect, edit and put together our *Keeping in Touch* Newsletter which goes out three times a year, January, June and October
  - To administer our Facebook page, working with the Communications Committee, UCW Regions/Districts, Areas, Communities of Faith and from the United Church of Canada, to post information from UCW Regions/Districts, Areas, Communities of Faith and from the United Church of Canada.
- You will work closely with our UCW Support Staff and Communication staff at the General Council Office with keeping our webpage up to date
- You will help with UCW's presence on social media
- You will share your knowledge and skills with other UCW women on the National Executive

If you are interested in joining our executive, please send your resume along with 3 references to our National UCW Secretary, Cheryl Sullivan, [cheryl@7sullivans.ca](mailto:cheryl@7sullivans.ca) by March 15, 2024.

References 3, resume, deadline March 15, 2024.

## NUCW Alumnae

I was saddened this fall to hear that Reta Manuel, a former NUCW President from Maritime Conference, was no longer with us. She was president back in 2006 when I attended my first NUCW meeting. I remember feeling terrified as I drove down alone from Barrie to Pickering. I wondered all the way what on earth I was getting myself into! Who was I, shy little Pat who grew up in North Bay, to think I belonged with this esteemed, well-known, knowledgeable group of women from all across Canada? But, then I met the friendliest, most wonderful, ordinary women of the UCC who welcomed me as a newbie and within hours my fears had vanished. We met at the Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre. Well, it appeared that the monks who ran the centre **embraced silence** and you may have noticed that UCW members do not! The first morning at breakfast we were sternly advised of this and had to quickly learn to laugh and carry on in a much quieter fashion, particularly in the evening! My first experience was certainly memorable and I think NUCW got into my blood for I am still here!

If you have a special memory of your time on the NUCW, please share and I will feature it in a future issue of Keeping In Touch. Thanks to everyone who helped me update my alumnae addresses and emails this fall. Please let me know if former members move or pass away.

Blessings,

*Pat Edmonds*, Alumnae Rep. [patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com)



## President Elect – This is the year we elect our President Elect

### Appendix 5: Policy and Procedures regarding the Election of the National President

*The National President-Elect is elected every two years.*

#### National President-Elect Requirements

- 1 Have held, or holding, the position of United Church Women Region/District or former Conference/District President.
- 2 Candidates must be nominated by her Region/District or two members of the current National United Church Women Executive.
- 3 Nominations for National President-Elect, with a short bio, must be received by the National United Church Women's secretary no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> of the election year for National President-Elect. If the nomination papers are delivered by Canada Post, or any other delivery service, it must be postmarked no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 4 At the close of nominations, the National United Church Women's secretary will circulate the names of the nominated candidates to the Region/Districts and the National United Church Women Executive along with the short bio provided by the candidates no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 5 Nominated candidates will be given the opportunity to provide a campaign video, written material, attend the annual meeting of the National United Church Women Executive via Zoom or other media streams available on the scheduled day for the election.
- 6 If no nominations are received by June 15<sup>th</sup>, then the National United Church Women will open nominations at their annual meeting where nominations will be entertained providing candidates are nominated by two voting members of the National United Church Women. *Nominated candidates must meet the first requirement.*
- 7 The position of the National President-Elect is the start of a four-year term commitment.

*One year as National President- Elect, two years as President, one year as Past President*

### National UCW – Cheque memo line

Hi everyone,

If your Community of Faith, wishes to make a donation, the best way to get the funds to where it needs to go is to make the cheque payable to your Area or Region. Make sure you put in the memo line of the cheque what it is for. Example: UCW dues, The Healing Fund, Mission & Service. If the cheque is covering a number of different things, you can send a paper with the breakdown of the amount.

Your Area or Regional treasurer also can send just one cheque to the National UCW with a paper outlining how the amount is divided.

**Note:** From Regional level to National UCW level make cheque payable to The United Church of Canada. Send cheque to: The United of Church of Canada, Church in Mission Unit, National UCW, 3250 Bloor St. W. Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, M8X 2Y4

**Note:** If your Community of Faith UCW unit or an individual wants to send a cheque directly to National UCW to receive a receipt.

**All cheques are to be made payable to The United Church of Canada.**

- If your donation is going to the UCW Endowment in honour or memory of a UCW Woman,  
Write in the cheque memo line: **UCW Endowment Fund.**





- If your donation is going to the Healing fund.  
Write in the cheque memo line: **NUCW The Healing Fund.**
- If your donation is going to Mission and Service.  
Write in the cheque memo line: **NUCW Mission and Service.**
- If you are sending funds to purchase Life Membership Pins.  
Write in the cheque memo line: **NUCW Life Membership Pins.**
- If you are sending in the \$1.00 per membership fee or any other donation.  
Write in the cheque memo line: **NUCW Donations.**

If you have any questions please contact me, [cdallas@ripnet.com](mailto:cdallas@ripnet.com) or by phone 343-571-7780.

Again, thank you, you are all a blessing, and you are all blessed.

*Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle*, Treasurer National UCW

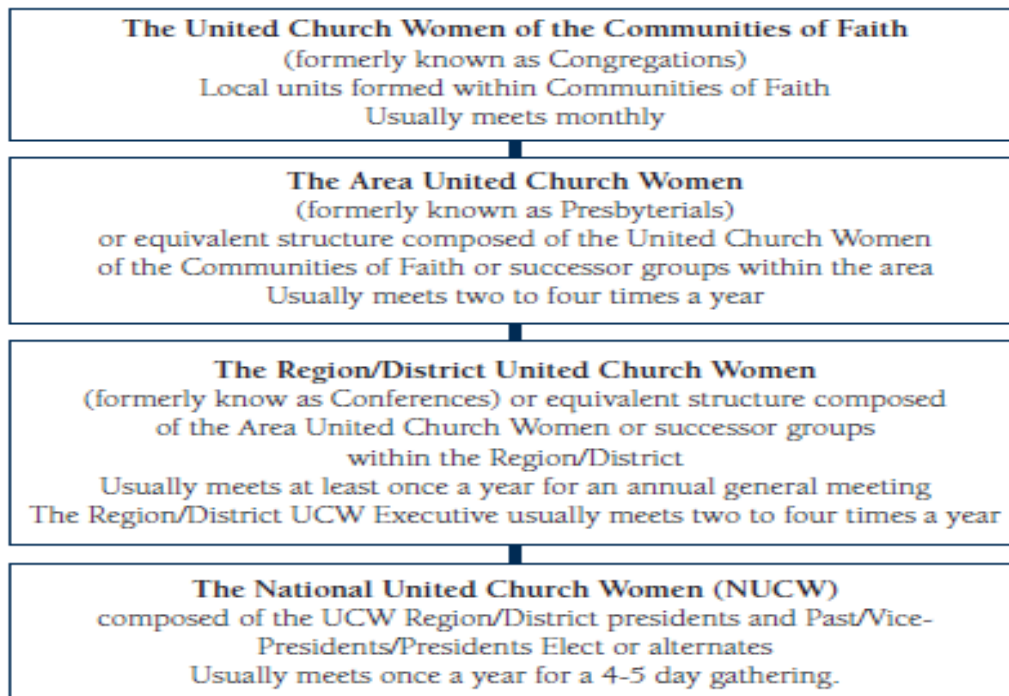


## It's that time of year again! Yes, its **STATS FORM COMPLETION AND COLLECTION TIME!**

If you have not received your statistic forms yet contact the President of your Area or Region/District. Remember you count and we want to count you in as a UCW member.

Where are **you** within the UCW Organization?

### Organization Chart of United Church Women



**REMINDER: Has your Community of Faith voted on the Remit regarding Indigenous Ministries? The deadline to remit is March 31, 2024.  
With the Remit, if you do not submit a vote, it will be counted as a no vote.**



## From Antler River Watershed UCW

Here are our upcoming events for this year.

1. **Oxford Spring Event /AGM** is April 17 at 1:00 pm at St. Paul's Tillsonburg. Drop ins are welcome.
2. **Middlesex Annual Gathering** will be held Wednesday, April 17 from 9:00 to noon at Richards Memorial Church, London. The theme is "Build A House" with the theme hymn in More Voices #1 Let Us Build A House. We are finalizing everything on Monday, Jan. 15 at our meeting.
3. **Antler River Annual Gathering** will be at Dunwich United Church, located at 179 Nancy St., Dunwich, on Saturday, April 27 at 9:00 am with Rev. Jen Prince as our guest speaker. The theme is "Where There Is Faith, There's Hope". The Planning Committee is just in the final stages in regard to pricing. There will be a light lunch with soup, sandwiches, celery/carrots sticks, pickles and a variety of cookies and squares.
4. **Oxford June Retreat** at the Ingersoll Senior Centre. Registration required call Anne Hollis at 519-285-2232.
5. **Camp Kee Mo Kee Day** is Monday, June 10 at 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. It is a fun day as the UCW Ladies are there just before the campers. We meet the staff and bring a potluck item such as salad, cold meats, cookies, and squares. We have three activities usually. It is a very fun filled day for the ladies. The cost is \$5.00,
6. **Summer Event** will be happening Saturday, July 20 at Siloam United Church, London. The Summer Event Planning Committee is just starting to finalize everything. There will be more details to follow. The event runs from 10:00 am to approximately 3 pm. The cost of the event is \$35.00 which includes a lovely lunch with Siloam's popular popcorn salad.

*Linda Britton* - Treasurer Antler River Watershed UCW

## From the Maritime UCW

### *Ladies of Wesley Methodist Church, Hamilton, Bermuda*

Ladies of the Wesley Methodist Church gathered in September to show appreciation to Margaret Ingham for years of service as President of the Wesley UCW prior to her moving to Wales, UK. Margaret was part of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, and many of those who attended the celebrations in Sydney, NS in July 2022 would have met her.



(from L to R) Charlotte Brangman, Inola Hull, Marilyn Dyer, Mary Sumpter, Joan Van Putten, Margaret Ingham – former President of our Unit, but now living in Wales; Vera Mills and Sandra Mayor.  
(Photo Credit Leo Mills)



## Berwick Camp UCW Day, 2023, Service of Dedication of Bench in Memory of Ruth Rudderham (1939 -2023)

Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> was indeed a beautiful day, both weather wise and event wise. We were blessed to be part of UCW Camp Day at Berwick.

The afternoon began with approximately 75 UCW folks gathered in the covered pavilion, under the hemlocks. Debbie and Marilyn greeted everyone, taking stock of where everyone had travelled from to be together and in sharing news of the Maritime UCW.

Phyllis Munroe was welcomed and thanked for coming to provide music for our Devotion time which was led by Debbie and Marilyn and based on a meditation provided by Janice MacLean of *Prayer Bench Ministries* entitled, **Like a Rock**. As we thought about one of the scriptures taken from Psalm 19:14, “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my hear be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer,*” we went on to talk about how Ruth Rudderham had been a “rock”, a firm foundation and left us with such a good example to follow as UCW members. It was a solemn service, but one of thoughtful remembrance and appreciation for our time we had known Ruth. Following the Worship time, we all gathered beside the beautiful bench, under the hemlocks, to dedicate it in memory of Ruth. Special regards were paid to Ruth’s son, Jim Rudderham, who joined us for the afternoon program. Below is a picture of Jim on the bench, seated with Barb Rafuse, long time friend of Ruth and a picture of the plaque as it appears on the back of the bench.

You will notice the two T shirts that appear on the bench between Jim and Barbara. These were Ruth’s T shirts and her son had found them in her things and brought them along to us. The T shirts can be found now hanging in *The Cookie Cottage* as shown in the picture below.

A special thanks to everyone who was able to join us at Berwick Camp to be part of this commemoration of the many contributions of Ruth to the life of United Church Women and Berwick Camp. A time of fellowship and sharing in memories as we enjoyed our tea and cookies at the *Cookie Cottage*, followed.





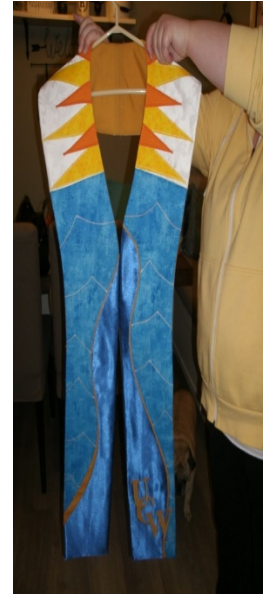
## Shining Waters Region UCW Report



Shining Waters Region UCW held its first in-person Togetherness Day since COVID on October 5<sup>th</sup>. It is becoming very difficult to find a venue located in the middle of our region that is easy to find, accessible, has parking and is willing to cater. The Barrie Legion Hall fulfilled all these requirements and were wonderful hosts. Fifty women attended. Since this was the first time Togetherness Day had been held on a Thursday, instead of the usual Wednesday, the executive took this

opportunity to educate the women from our units about Thursdays In Black. The executive all wore black, explained the movement, presented every attendee with a Thursday In Black pin and encouraged the women to share this knowledge with the members of their units. It was a great day of fun, fellowship and a wonderful luncheon provided by the Legion's Women's Auxiliary. Our speaker, Rev. Evelyn McLachlan's presentation titled, "Music is What Feelings Sound Like" had us singing, laughing, and reminiscing. The Sandy Cove Men's Glee Club entertained us with a selection of songs from our past. We hope to see even more women out next year at the same venue.

Barbara Hendren, the maker of our banner for the 60th Anniversary celebration that features our logo, has made a president's stole pictured here. The stole will be dedicated at our Annual Meeting in May 2024.



**Deadline for submission for our June 'Keeping in Touch' issue is May 15, 2024.**



**What is happening in your Region, your Area, and your local UCW Unit?**

**Want to write or edit, or create and do layouts for our digital newsletter?**

Send photos (jpg), articles (500 words max), and letters of interest to the  
Keeping in Touch Editing Team

**by Email : [nucwkeepintouch2021@gmail.com](mailto:nucwkeepintouch2021@gmail.com)**

Editor reserves the right to modify submissions as needed

### National Mailing Address for NUCW/UCW

The United Church of Canada,  
Church in Mission Unit, National UCW  
3250 Bloor St. W. Suite 200,  
Toronto, ON, M8X 2Y4