



Canadian MOTHERS' UNION

Spring 2019
Issue 6

National Newsletter

Alice Kennedy's Reflections on History in the Making at Southwark Cathedral on February 26, 2019

On February 26, Mothers' Union commissioned the new Worldwide President and Board of Trustees. I was honoured to be there to witness this historic event. I left Saint John on Monday afternoon and arrived Tuesday

morning in London to lovely weather with daffodils in full bloom.

I went to Mary Sumner House first to meet with some staff and then went on to my hotel. Kathleen Snow, the new Trustee for Zone B, is from my Diocese

and her husband Tim was staying in the same hotel. Tim and I travelled to Southwark Cathedral together and had seats up front for the service.

Over 600 guests were there to witness history in the making! Sheran Harper is

the first Worldwide President to be elected from outside the UK. The male Trustee from Scotland, Paul Hindle, represents another first in Mothers' Union history.

The service was a Choral Evensong and was magnificent in every way. Everyone was dressed in their celebration attire. I saw many faces from previous Presidents' meetings and our Zone B meetings. It was like a big reunion.

The music of the Nostalgia Steel Band set a celebratory tone for the ceremony to come. The all male choir was comprised of both children and adults and their voices were wonderful! I was moved when the Banner for the Southwark Mothers' Union was paraded in the processional.

The incoming Worldwide President, Sheran Harper of Guyana,



Pictured above, left to right: June Butler (All Ireland); Roshini Mendis (Korea, Myanmar, North India, South India, Sri Lanka); Paul Hindle (Scotland); Deaconess Mary Kamwati (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Jerusalem and the Middle East); Thembsie Mchunu (Central Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Southern Africa); Bishop Charles Davidson of Guyana; Marie-Pierrette Bezara (Burundi, Congo, Indian Ocean, Rwanda, West Africa); Caroline Welby; Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby; Sheran Harper (Worldwide President, Guyana); Canon Catherine Hilton (North of England - York); Jennifer Barton (Wales); Nikki Sweatman (South of England - Canterbury); Kathleen Snow (Canada, South America, U.S.A, West Indies); and The Rev. Libbie Crossman (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Australia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea).



Jill Cameron, Diocesan President and Project Lead, Scotland; Kathleen Snow, Zone B Trustee; and Rachael Andersen, Events and Digital Communications Manager for MU at Mary Sumner House.

"...only one Mothers' Union... It is one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide church."

and the new Board of Trustees were commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. He spoke on Mothers' Union and what a difference the organization makes around the world. "There is only one Mothers' Union. It is the world's oldest and largest women's movement. It is one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide church," Archbishop Welby said.

We left the Cathedral to the melodious rhythms of the Nostalgia Steel Band followed by the resounding chorus of pealing church bells. These are joyful

memories I will always treasure.

You can find more information and photos of the Commissioning on the website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-worldwide-president-sheran-harper-commissioned-archbishop-canterbury-south-wark>

The Canadian Mothers' Union is so happy to have Kathleen Snow as our Zone B Trustee!

I returned to Canada on Wednesday to face yet another snowstorm. All is well! I am home and spring is on its way.

Journeying – In Step with God

Submitted by Kathleen Snow, Zone B Trustee

Journeying – In Step with God was the theme of a week's meetings with the worldwide Mothers' Union which I had the privilege of attending February 25 – March 1, 2019.

Last summer I was elected to the position of Zone B Trustee representing Mothers' Union members from Canada, United States, West Indies, South America and Brazil. My role on the newly elected Board of Trustees commenced in January 2019 for a three-year term. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the worldwide Mothers' Union, which exists in 84 countries around the world and boasts over 4 million members.

Our members are devoted to making a difference in our communities at the grass roots level by upholding our Christian faith and transforming lives through supporting relationships within the family and promoting reconciliation. This is evidenced by the running of programs such as literacy, parenting, and family life. We work with the disenfranchised and the vulnerable to build healthy families and communities, all in



The Board of Trustees in Mary Sumner Chapel after Morning Prayer service. Front row: Mary Kamwati (Zone D); Roshini Mendis (Zone A); Sheran Harper (WWP); The Rev. Libbie Crossman (Zone C); Thembsie Mchunu (Zone E); and Marie-Pierrette Bezara (Zone F). Back row: Canon Catherine Hilton (Zone H); June Butler (Zone I); Kathleen Snow (Zone B); Nikki Sweatman (Zone G); Jenny Barton (Zone K); and Paul Hindle (Zone J).

step with God. We have a purpose, aim and objectives, which are upheld by all members of the movement as noted on our website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/our-vision>

org/our-vision

The week began with getting to know the new board of 12, three of whom were returning members. We

came prepared and shared poster presentations of our zones, so that we would become familiar with the rich diversity of the global movement. We described membership numbers in the different zones, languages spoken, and projects which members were working on. I met Mary (South Sudan), June (Northern Ireland), Jenny (Wales), Nikki and Catherine (England), Marie-Pierrette (Madagascar), Thembsie (Kenya), Roshini (Sri Lanka), Paul (Scotland), Libbie (Australia) and of course our Worldwide President Sheran (Guyana). History was made with this international board of directors. For the first time in 142 years, Mothers' Union has elected a Worldwide President from outside of the UK, and a male Trustee to the Board.

Day Two was exciting as we met with many of the Diocesan Presidents from Britain and Ireland, some members reconnecting while others made new friendships. We later travelled to Southwark Cathedral where we were commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby during an Evensong Service. Over 600 members attended, including our Canadian Provincial President Alice Kennedy, and my husband Tim. Several of our Provincial Presidents and Diocesan Presidents from Zone B also attended to support the newly elected Board.

Staff from Mary Sumner House, the administrative headquarters for worldwide MU, were in attendance as well. As I had previously sat on two international working committees for the last three years, it was good to meet with many of my friends and colleagues who give so generously of their time and talent to this amazing movement. I am in awe of our Lord's generosity when I work with them. He gives us more than we can ask or imagine. Mothers' Union is truly the work of His Hands and His Feet.

Archbishop Welby in his sermon so warmly supported the work of Mothers' Union. He stressed that we need to make ourselves better known throughout the world. Ten years ago, when I was



Trustees and MSH Staff meeting with WWP Sheran Harper and CEO Bev Jullien at one of our many meetings. Kathleen Snow and Marie-Pierrette Bezara are on the right.

Provincial President attending meetings in the UK, the then Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams mentioned that the worldwide Mothers' Union was the fifth instrument of unity in the Anglican Communion. Our relationships have no boundaries – that is what makes us such a global cohesive movement. I met 11 women and one man from different countries - we all come from differing cultures, differing languages, differing churches, and yet we are all part of the Anglican Communion, we all have the same love for the Lord and the same aim and objectives in our lives. It doesn't matter that we haven't met before - we are not strangers. That is the beauty and the success of our movement. Our work is not for ourselves but for others in His Name.

The remainder of the week was spent in meetings on governance training, fiduciary duties of trustees, finance, data protection and safeguarding. I have been named to chair the Development Committee, which is responsible for many of the programs within the global Mothers' Union, including the MULOA visioning workshops (Mothers' Union Listen, Observe, Act) which were attended by

members worldwide to lead us forward in transforming communities.

I will be attending a Worldwide Council Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in early June. Leaders from around the world will be meeting to set the future direction of Mothers' Union after having listened to the voices of the membership through the MULOA process.

In our closing Eucharist, Father Philip from a nearby church spoke to us about belonging, listening and following.

He quoted Matthew: "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

He quoted Psalm 23: "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long."

And he quoted John: "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because

they know his voice."

The take-away from this is that we are meant to belong and to be in relationship with Jesus and with one another, we are meant to listen to our God and to one another, and we are meant to be followers of Jesus. Belong, listen and follow. That's what we do as Mothers' Union members.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has mentioned that the worldwide Mothers' Union was the fifth instrument of unity in the Anglican Communion.



Hello Mothers' Union Canada!

It is hard to believe another New Year is long past and another winter is almost behind us. The East coast has had some extreme weather this year with houses flooding that never had water problems before. I love living in this part of the world. We have four distinct seasons. It seems that almost everything in life has a season. We are children, teens, adults and seniors. Our spiritual life tends to follow seasons as well. I write this as the church season is Lent, a time to draw closer to God. We reflect on the journey Jesus made to the cross. For many years I liked to skip Good Friday and move directly to Easter Sunday. I have learned as I moved through the seasons of my faith that this is not possible. Now I walk through Good Friday to lead my way to Easter Sunday.

After Easter you might like to get involved with "Thy Kingdom Come". This is a journey from Ascension to Pentecost. There are several resources for you to use. Check out the internet for a wealth of information. I love the colour red so I very much enjoy Pentecost. Also it is such a wonderful day of celebration. A party day for the Church!

This year both Lady Day and Mothering Sunday fall in Lent. It took me some time to get the two dates sorted. Lady Day is always March 25 and Mothering Sunday is always the fourth Sunday in Lent. Many branches celebrate Mothering Sunday with Simnel cake and provide flowers on that day. In Canada

we celebrate Mother's Day in May, but Mothering Sunday is Mother's Day in the UK.

I was in London at the end of February to see the commissioning of the new Worldwide President and Board of Trustees. The daffodils were in bloom. It is easy to see why Mothering Sunday is celebrated when spring has already arrived and the ground is nourishing new growth. I think we feel that way when May comes and our flowers are starting to bloom. We ask branches to make a special offering at their meetings closest to Lady Day. The offering is sent to our National Treasurer, Elaine Robichaud, who then sends the money to Mary Sumner House for our work overseas.

At the Biennial Conference in November the membership was asked to help with the visioning of where Mothers' Union Canada needs to make changes. One change will be to have two newsletters per year, so I am writing you a message that includes my greetings for Spring and Summer. We also asked Branch Leaders to survey their members and let us know if the need for printed newsletters could be reduced. The newsletter will be posted to the website and emailed to someone designated in the Branch. Electronic distribution will be at the Branch level. We are happy to send printed copies to those who prefer them. We will see how this works and make adjustments as necessary. There will be changes in other areas as well. Branch Leaders will be updated as they develop.

I love the longer days and have deemed May and June as my favourite months. I will be travelling to Rwanda for the Provincial Presidents' meeting the first week of June with Kathleen Snow, our new Zone B Trustee. Please pray for us both. It will be a long trip

and we will be working hard in new surroundings.

I trust your branch is using the MULO A process to address any of the needs you feel called to support. I think many of the branches are already using this model. The world needs Mothers' Union, and we need to be in our communities. This past week has been marred with tragedy both in New Zealand and Ethiopia. How can we show God's love? What can we do to spread the word of His love?

Our Chaplain has given us much food for thought with his insights on stepping out of the boat. How brave are we? What will our branches be doing in 2019?

My prayer is that as spring arrives, we will have followed our hearts to prepare the soil and sow our seeds. May we all work the soil in our communities with a happy heart! As we enjoy the summer sun and our time to relax and restore we will see the results of our labours. Then in the fall we can all rejoice in the harvest.

*Blessings to you all,
Alice Kennedy, President*



Introducing our Link Coordinator Ruth Corston



Many of you know me as the Link Coordinator, but who am I and how did I get involved? In 1987 we moved to Chatham NB, now known as Miramichi. My husband Tom was rector of St. Mary's Chatham & St. Paul's Chatham Head. Shortly after arriving in the community, I was invited to attend a branch meeting in Newcastle and subsequently joined this Mothers' Union group. I was on the planning committee for the 1992

National Conference, and was in charge of the portfolio style conference bags. In late December 1991 we moved to Sault Ste. Marie. I planned to continue as the 'bag lady', but our second child was due to arrive in early June and flying to the conference was not possible that late in pregnancy. Thus began my journey as a lone member. I did try to start a branch in "The Soo", and again in Sudbury, when we moved there in 1998. It was difficult without a mentor branch nearby so unfortunately neither of my attempts was successful. To give you an idea of the distance, the closest branches to me are in Deep River, which is 5 hours away and Thunder Bay which is at least a 10 hour journey.

That said, I have celebrated my 25th anniversary as a lone member. I had decided not to renew my dues at this stage, when President Alice Kennedy invited me to join Canadian Council as Link Coordinator. It has been gratifying to know that as a lone member one can contribute to the greater MU movement.

I would like to share the importance of attending rallies and conferences.

As MU members, we are a sisterhood. Our links are important. I feel that lone members could also benefit from a link, either with a branch or another link. In this electronic world of emails, Facebook, and Skype we need not be alone and isolated from our Canadian MU sisters.

When I became the Link Coordinator, the previous link information had been lost. I have rebuilt an Excel spreadsheet of those Canadian branches that have sent in their information to me, but I know there are many branches which have not made contact. Please send me your branch information, including your link contacts, or if you are interested in a link. For our Canadian links I try to match a branch with another at the opposite end of our vast country. I continue to ask Mary Sumner House for UK links. I will be putting the pressure on our own Kathleen Snow when she assumes her role as Zone B Trustee!

Branch Activities: Thunder Bay MU is Having an Active Year

By Lynda Viau, Branch Leader

Thunder Bay Mothers' Union has had a busy start to the 2019 year. In January we had our business meeting and in February we had an artist come in again to teach us a charcoal paint-

ing technique. The night was full of laughter by many budding artists. It was great fun and adds a deeper level of connection among our members. In March we crafted blankets to give to newly baptized children at our church and some learned how to weave booties while others baked our Simnel cookies

for the annual Mothering Sunday service. We have had a

great year to date and are enrolling two new members. We have another lady who is attending meetings and will most likely be enrolled next year. Our group is always on the lookout for new things to do to help out locally in our community. Our meetings are usually made up of 15-20 ladies, and wonderful ladies they are! If you are ever in Thunder Bay, please check us out.



Our Treasured Mothers' Union Pins

Contributed by Ginny McEwen and Kathleen Snow

Badges of honour - we have many forms of these from gray hairs and wrinkles to grandchildren. Somewhere along life's road we sometimes collect smaller metal ones which symbolize different parts of our life.

Badges, medals and pins all stem from ancient roots. Today there are many different kinds in use, such as military decorations, athletic medals and organizational pins or badges. Our MU pins and badges are one of our most visible long standing worldwide traditions.

The first MU pin a person can receive is the Members pin, which is presented at the time of enrolment. It has a long history; these pins were first worn in 1902 by MU members in the British army.

Our founder Mary Sumner ordered and paid for 500 of these medals herself. At this time there was no pin on the back so they were referred to as badges. In 1909 it was decided that the army medals already in use should be adopted as a badge for general use. They were made of white metal with the Madonna and Holy Child on them.

In 1912 the badges had a pin added to the back and in 1922 the pin we know today with the MU monogram in white and blue became a recognized alternative to the older badge. It is still the official badge issued for general use for branch members. In 1942, due to scarcity of metal during the war, a woven badge was produced for members, which consisted of the MU logo on a piece of light blue cloth.

Within the MU, there are pins which recognize different offices. At the Diocesan level in Canada we have a special pin for the Diocesan President and Diocesan Chaplain. The Diocesan Presidents pin is made of pewter and is a bar with a maple leaf on either side

of the MU logo. These pins were first presented in May 1990 at Mt. Allison University, Sackville, NB, to all Diocesan Presidents across Canada. They are worn by the presiding President during her term of office and then passed on to successive Presidents. The Diocesan Chaplains pin was first presented at the National Biennial Conference in Halifax, NS, in June 2000. It is a gold rectangle plated with gold cross, globe and MU logo, superimposed on the top and is presented to all presiding Diocesan Chaplains across Canada, and then passed on to successive Chaplains.

At the Canadian level of the MU there are three special pins, the Canadian Provincial Presidents Pin, The Past Canadian Provincial Presidents Pin and the Canadian Chaplains Pin.

The Canadian Provincial Presidents Pin is made of sterling silver with the MU logo in blue and white enamel, encircled by eight silver maple leaves. This pin was created by Elspeth Newton, who was Canadian Provincial President from 1970-76. It was first presented in 1977 to Canadian Provincial President, The Rev. Mary Wilkie of NS. This pin is worn by the presiding President during her term of office and is passed on to successive Canadian Provincial Presidents.

The Past Canadian Provincial Presidents Pin is made of sterling silver. Its design is identical to the Members pin but has no colored enamel. It was purchased in Ireland and was first presented in 1984, at the National Canadian Conference in MB, to Past Presidents Elspeth Newton and The Rev. Mary Wilkie. This pin has since been presented to Marion Lepinsky (MB), Marg Wall (ON), Ginny McEwen (NB), Joan Peterson (BC), Ethel Nelson (NS), Annette Graydon (ON), Kathleen Snow (NB), Celia Dodds (BC) and Margaret deCarvalho (NS). Kathleen Snow's pin is actually Marion Lepinsky's pin; Marion gave her own pin to Kathleen at the end of Kathleen's term as Provincial Presi-

dent, and she wears it proudly in honour of Marion. The pin is presented during the induction of the new Canadian Provincial Council and each Past President wears this pin for her lifetime.

The Canadian Chaplains pin was created in 1986 by Elspeth Newton. It is a large sterling silver maple leaf with a dark blue and white enamel MU logo superimposed on top. It was first presented to The Rev. Tom Appleton (Diocese of Niagara) in 1985. This pin is worn by the presiding Canadian Provincial Chaplain while in office and is then passed on to the incoming Chaplain.

The international or Worldwide Presidents Pin is made of sterling silver and diamonds and is worn by the presiding WWP. This very special pin is passed on to successive Presidents.

The Worldwide MU is blessed with numerous pins, which are not used for enrolment or as symbols of office. These pins are worn as additional symbols of our membership but only the Members pin is used for enrolment.

Our MU pins are a very important tool for each of us to use. Our Members pin and our other MU jewellery are a wonderful introduction to others, offering an opportunity to explain our work. As well, it gives a great deal of joy to see a stranger wearing one of our pins. It often sparks an instant friendship of the bond MU members share around the world.

When Alice Mokoena came from Africa to Canada and was looking for a church with MU, she came to the Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton and saw Donna Crowe wearing her MU pin. She immediately threw her arms around Donna and knew that she was 'home' in her new country.

Men in Mothers' Union... REALLY?

*Submitted by Mary Stone
Diocesan President NS & PEI*

Well why not? Is it the name? Yes, the name is a bit of an issue... but it is hard to change the name of a 140+year old Christian organization that is in 84 countries around the world. The name is legally bound by a constitution and to change it would require mountains of time and money for legal work, and the final approval of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom. So far no one has ventured into that quagmire. Some people have dipped their toes in but quickly withdrew when they saw the damage it could do to the well-oiled machine of Mothers' Union.

Rather, we have embraced our history and have used it to influence our work and actions around the world.

There are several male members in our Maritime Provinces. Some are Diocesan members who pay dues, support Mothers' Union in various ways, but do not attend branch meetings. Others are active members at both the branch and diocesan levels and hold various offices.

There are also non-members who, because of their relationship with Mothers' Union members, offer much time and effort to the causes of Mothers' Union – be it computer skills, music skills, editing skills, spiritual skills, physical skills. They all contribute to what is the bigger picture of Mothers' Union.

So what about those men who have committed to being Mothers' Union members? Well I asked a few about why they made that decision. Some came to Mothers' Union via chaplaincy, some came because of familial connections, some came from a knowledge of the organization and some out of curiosity.

John DosSantos of Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton, was attracted to Mothers' Union because of the Aims and

Objectives and due to that appreciation he was immediately welcomed, not as a man but as a person. John has held several positions on the executive and is now the co-branch leader of the Cathedral group.

Gerry Nelson said, "I wanted to become a Diocesan member because I was impressed by the variety of services the members provide in our churches and communities here and around the world and I wanted to support that. The motto, Christian care for families, is inclusive, since care, training and supplies are given to any person in need regardless of religion or nationality. The way Mothers' Union works for gender equality matches my own feelings. I am also aware of and applaud the local members response to social justice issues such as the vigil on Violence against Women and the presentation to the provincial government about the White Ribbon campaign."

Paul Sherwood decided to be a Diocesan member "as a commitment to my church and to join a worldwide group of individuals (women) who are making a difference. The fact that they welcome all genders without prejudice made the choice even easier."

Father Charlie Black had this to say, "Over the years MU has made the shift from a 'gender-based' organization to an inclusive organization encouraging the strength of marriage and family in

a much broader basis that more reflects the breadth of the human condition, without losing sight of its Christian origins..."

John Stone felt that, to his knowledge, there was no Anglican group for men that pursues current family issues the way Mothers' Union does at home and abroad.

The Rev. Canon Tom Stradwick, Canadian Chaplain, will continue to be involved because, "I see MU as promoting relationships and mission..."

These are some of our male members, either branch or diocesan. They are not intimidated by the name Mothers' Union. They see beyond the name to the purposeful work done in the name of Mothers' Union. In this wonderful age when so many men embrace the ideals of feminism it is easier to see why men would feel comfortable joining a group called Mothers' Union. Focusing on families and relationships and what influences them around the world is not a 'women only' job. It is not women's work, it is people's work.



**Canadian Mothers' Union
Conference (National) 2020**

SAVE THE DATE!

June 3 - 6, 2020

MU National Conference

**Fredericton Campus of the
University of New Brunswick**

Treasurer's Report

Submitted By Elaine Robichaud, Treasurer

Canadian Mothers Union Annual Report January - December 2018

Bank Balance	January 1, 2018	\$46,046.14
Receipts		
	Dues Received 2018	\$9,818.80
	Extra Newsletter	\$90.00
	Dues Received 2019	\$693.25
	Sarah Marshall Fund	\$4,637.10
	Biennial Receipts	\$8,990.00
	Travel Fund	\$3,207.91
	MULOA Receipts	\$1,807.90
	NCFE Donations	\$14,623.30
	Make a Mothers Day (MSH)	\$945.00
	Northern Parenting	\$545.00
	Rev. Debbie Strickland memorial Fund	\$200.00
	Lady Day Overseas Fund	\$1,177.10
	Parenting Program	\$118.00
	Literature	\$6,671.25
		\$53,524.61
Expenses		
	CC Meeting Travel	178.14
	Biennial Expenses	9,869.74
	CC Coordinator Floats	71.45
	CC Lone member	67.47
	Presidents Travel	265.75
	Presidents Expenses	220.93
	Travel ACW Conference	1,045.30
	Travel UN Conference	870.86
	Travel MULOA	1,000.50
	Newsletter Printing Postage	3,970.50
	New Branch Supplies	124.68
	Bank Charges	79.36
	MSH MULOA overpayment	1677.5
	MSH Dues	3,336.00
	MSH Lady Day	1,419.95
	MSH MAMD	830.00
	NCFE Gifts	9,504.19
	Northern Parenting Expenses	628.81
	Literature expenses	3,476.88
		\$38,638.01
Bank Balance	December 31, 2018	\$60,932.74

Allocation of Funds	Opening	Closing
General Fund	\$23,231.47	\$27,698.95
Dues to MSH - 6(2018)+33(2019) members x \$ 6	\$306.00	\$234.00
Travel Fund	\$1,420.95	\$3,492.25
NCFE	\$9,903.26	\$15,022.37
MAMD	\$505.00	\$620.00
MAMD Northern Parenting	\$8,325.20	\$8,241.39
Rev Debbie Strickland	\$1,055.00	\$1,255.00
Lady Day (Overseas fund)	\$242.85	\$0.00
Parenting	\$1,032.76	\$1,150.76
MSH	\$0.00	\$0.00
Literature	\$23.65	\$3,218.02
Balance as of December 31, 2018	\$46,046.14	\$60,932.74

Good-bye to our Mothers' Union Friends

Mary (Acorn) Hooper (1926-2018)

Mary Hooper, age 92, passed away peacefully in hospital on December 6, 2018, following a stroke. She was a devoted and long-time member of MU, ACW, and Choir at St. John's Anglican Church, Milton, PEI. Mary will be remembered for her love and service - for her Lord, her family, her friends, and the wider church and social communities. One of Mary's special interests was working with children. For many years, she told the children's story during the Sunday service and she organized the Church's annual Little Helpers' Party. She loved



the visits of her grandchildren and then great-grandchildren, through the years. They kept her "young at heart". Her enthusiasm for life was evident in her kindness, her humour, and her heartfelt laugh.

Mary Ann McGinn (1940-2018)

Mary Ann McGinn passed away on December 17, 2018 at the age of 78. Born in Halifax, she was a daughter of the late Ronald and Margaret (Peggy) Williams. She is survived by her husband Hugh; children Geoff (Violante) of Bedford; Nancy (Anthony) Swan of Calgary; grandchildren Matthew and



Liam McGinn and Jack and Lucy Swan. She is also survived by two sisters, Alice (Michael) Hadley and Nancy (Alan) Knight and many nieces and nephews.

Mary Ann graduated from Dalhousie University in Pharmacy and worked in Truro and most hospital pharmacies in Halifax. She enjoyed spending time with her family, gardening, playing bridge, cooking, listening and playing music, travelling, knitting and volunteering her time for various charity organizations. She was one of the founding members of the MU branch at St. James, Armdale, Halifax, and a former Enrolling Member.

Mary Ann was always cheery and the first one to start a conversation with strangers and turn them into life-long friends. She will be missed by her family and all who knew her.

Message from the Chaplain

I am writing this at the beginning of our Lenten Journey where we have been invited to observe a Holy Lent by fasting, alms giving and prayer. In short, we are called to a time of self-examination during which we need to be brutally honest with ourselves. This isn't always the easiest task to accomplish as we might not like what we discover. However, if we are to take seriously the direction of Jesus on Easter Sunday, "To Go and Tell", we must undertake this journey of Lent earnestly.

The Easter Gospel has the theme of action that is being told to Mary: "To Go and Tell". This is to be our direction. The theme of our Biennial Conference was "Our God is on the Move". God can't be in us, if we are not seriously taking the direction that Jesus gave to Mary. The more pertinent question is, how do we go and tell?

The answer to this question for many of us lies in the time-tested ways that we have always told the message of the Gospel, such as Sunday School for

our children, Bible Study for adults, Church on Sunday, which all worked back in the day. In the 21st century we are called to tell in a far more complex society. For example, both parents are now in the work force to provide the same standard of living that was once afforded to them from a single income.

The eye opener for me was planning Vacation Bible School. I had been assured that mothers were off work during the summer school vacation caring for their children. I have no idea why I would have had such an antiquated understanding of women's careers. I guess I had never been confronted with the issue until I was planning VBS. Childcare was organized so that some of the children wouldn't be able to attend because previous arrangements had been made for their care. This meant that VBS did take place but we had to deal with this issue.



In some communities VBS was held during Harvest. It helped to provide childcare if both parents were off during harvest time, while for others it was a matter of giving adequate notice so childcare could be arranged around VBS dates. This is just one of the many issues that confronts us in the

21st century. The point that needs to be made, is our direction "To Go And Tell" is still the same and we have to find ways to make it happen.

I hope that during our Lenten journey we have been able to identify those things within us that have kept us rigid and prevented us from telling. Remember God can't be on the move if we don't tell. Go and Tell that you have seen the Risen Lord!

*Yours in the Ministry we share,
The Rev. Canon Tom Stradwick*

Canadian Council - 2017-2020

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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

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Christmas Surprise Anytime of the Year

*Submitted By Mary Stone
Diocesan President NS & PEI*

The Northern Clergy Families Fund (NCFF) is an outreach project of the Canadian Mothers' Union. The Fund was started in 1974 to help isolated clergy spouses serving in the Dioceses of the North. Initially it was thought that the gift could be used for a holiday or trip home to see family and friends. That idea quickly changed, when clergy indicated that they needed the money for necessities. The fund changed from being specifically for spouses to being for clergy families in general.

Donations come from MU branches, ACW groups, churches and individuals. The Fund is able to provide about 24 gifts per year. Each gift is \$1000 and the recipient is free to use the money for their specific needs. The gift offers clergy families a tremendous boost, providing opportunity to visit family, attend conferences, and cater to medical, travel, home and family needs as the following notes of gratitude attest.

"Prior to the birth of our twins, I spent two weeks in hospital in Edmonton and another week after they were born. We had many expenses during that time for which we hadn't budgeted. So, it was a blessing to come home from the hospital and find a cheque waiting for us."

"Our daughter was diagnosed with leukemia in 2012. I am pleased to say that for the second time she is in remission, but is awaiting a stem cell transplant. Your generous gift has allowed me to spend time with her as she undergoes

these treatments."

"I was so surprised at the gift that it took me two days to really believe it was for me! As my ministry is all volunteer work, it is very much appreciated. My little granddaughter was picked to go to Goose Bay to sing with the school choir. She needed her Mom with her, but my daughter could not afford to go. So I bought her a ticket."

Thank you letters tell of the challenges of living in the North or in isolated communities. They often mention that the gift was an answer to prayers or that it arrived at exactly the right time, such as these:

"I was ordained in 2006 and have spent my entire ministry working in various areas of Labrador. While it is indeed an isolated area, I am so very pleased to be able to offer my service to the loving and welcoming people we have in this part of the diocese. I was humbled and surprised to receive your letter and gift. With the nearest community 240 km away, travel is a costly venture in Labrador."

"God is indeed amazing! His blessing and love is beyond our comprehension. We are volunteers in the north and there are many expenses involved in relocating that have to be covered personally."

"Thank you for the generous gift! I was quite surprised and greatly pleased. It was an answer to prayer! May the Lord truly bless your ministry, as you all continue to bless others."

"It is easy to feel forgotten up here in the frozen north and it is organizations like yours that can make a real difference."

The recipients of the \$1000 gifts are

selected on a rotational basis. The NCFF Coordinator contacts bishops in the Council of the North as funds permit. Each bishop is asked to submit the names of two clergy families who would benefit from the gift. Special or urgent requests are also considered.

The coordinator of the NCFF is MU member, The Ven. Sarah Usher, Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of the Yukon.

The Back Page

As you have read in President Alice's message, the decision has been made to publish two newsletters a year, based on feedback from members at our Biennial Conference in November. Future issues will be published later in the spring and autumn and we ask you to keep the flow of articles and photos of your branch activities coming to us.

Thank you to those branches who have responded to our request for numbers of your members who would prefer to receive the 'greener' online version instead of a printed copy of our publication. We are looking forward to emailing the newsletter to our overseas links to keep them informed about our current Canadian initiatives.

*Blessings to you all as you make
summer memories with your families
and friends,
Susan Colpitts-Judd and
Bonnie Greenwood, Co-Editors*

The deadline for the next issue is September 30, 2019.

Submissions are subject to editing and cropping, for space considerations.

*Questions, comments, or suggestions?
Please contact us.*

We would love to hear from you!

Submit your articles and photos (electronically preferred) to:

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Canadian Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer 2019

	January	February	March	April	May	June
1-5	All Branch Chaplains Debbie Fice	Diocese of NS and PEI St. John the Evangelist Lower Sackville, NS	Canadian Mothers' Union Parenting Program Trainers and Facilitators Canadian President Alice Kennedy	Diocese of Rupert's Land St. Stephen's Winnipeg, MB	Diocese of Fredericton St. Paul's Hampton, NB	All Canadian ACW Members
6-10	Canadian Historian Debbie Fice	Diocese of Fredericton St. Mary's, York Fredericton, NB	Canadian President Alice Kennedy	Canadian Past Presidents	Diocese of NS and PEI Parish of French Village Tantallon, NS	Diocese of NS and PEI Church of St. Andrew Cole Harbour, NS
11-15	Diocese of Ottawa St. Barnabas Deep River, ON	All Diocesan Members	Diocese of Fredericton Trinity Sussex, NB	Diocese of Niagara Church of the Nativity Hamilton, ON	Canadian Mothers' Union Parenting Program Participants	All Diocesan Councils
16-20	Diocese of NS and PEI Parish of Musquodoboit, NS	Diocese of Algoma St. Paul & St. Thomas Thunder Bay, ON	Diocese of NS and PEI Parish of Christ Church Shelburne, NS	World Wide President World Wide Council	Members in the Diocese of the Arctic	Diocese of Fredericton All Saints Marysville, NB
21-25	Canadian Secretary Deanna Morrison	Diocese of Montreal St. Paul's Montreal, PQ	Canadian Newsletter Editors Bonnie Greenwood Susan Colpitts-Judd	Canadian Conference Coordinator Lilian Ketch	Canadian Chaplain The Rev. Tom Stradwick	Diocese of NS and PEI Holy Trinity Liverpool, NS
26-31	Diocese of New Westminster St. Cuthbert's Delta, BC	All Lone Members	Diocese of NS and PEI St. John's Halifax, NS	Diocese of NS and PEI St. John the Baptist North Sydney, NS	Diocese of Fredericton St. Mary & St. Bartholomew Saint John, NB	Representative to the North Kathleen Snow
	July	August	September	October	November	December
1-5	Diocese of Niagara St. Alban the Martyr Glen Williams, ON	Diocese of NS and PEI St. Luke's Dartmouth, NS	Diocese of Fredericton St. John the Baptist Riverview, NB	Canadian Parenting Program Coordinator Maxine Simpkin	All Provincial Presidents	Diocese of NS and PEI All Saints Bedford, NS
6-10	Diocese of Fredericton Christ Church Cathedral Fredericton, NB	Diocese of Toronto All Saints Collingwood, ON	Canadian Lone Members' Coordinator Sandra Jorgensen	All Diocesan Presidents	Diocese of Niagara St. Matthew on the Plains Burlington, ON	Diocese of Rupert's Land St. James the Assiniboine Winnipeg, MB
11-15	Diocese of Calgary St. Stephen's Calgary, AB	Canadian Literature and Marketing Coordinator Ann Leland	All Branch Leaders	Canadian Treasurer Elaine Robichaud	All Branches in Abeyance	Diocese of New Westminster St. Mary the Virgin South Hill Vancouver, BC
16-20	Diocese of NS and PEI St. John's Milton, PEI	Diocese of NS and PEI Church of the Holy Spirit Dartmouth, NS	All Diocesan Chaplains	Diocese of NS and PEI St. James' Armdale, NS	Canadian Northern Clergy Families Fund Coordinator Ven. Sarah Usher	Diocese of Ottawa St. Mark's Ottawa, ON
21-25	Canadian Link Coordinator Ruth Corston	All Canadian Bishops	Diocese of British Columbia St. Peter's Quamichan, BC	Immediate Canadian Past President Margaret de Carvalho	All Diocesan Representatives	Diocese of NS and PEI St. Francis by the Lakes Lower Sackville, NS
26-31	Diocese of Fredericton Parish of Richmond Richmond, NB	Canadian Vice President Shara Golden	Diocese of New Westminster St. James' Vancouver, BC	Diocese of NS and PEI Emmanuel Spryfield, NS	Staff of Mary Sumner House	All Members Worldwide