



Canadian MOTHERS' UNION

National Newsletter

The Rain Will Fall on Me the Same Way... Nature does not Judge

By Kathleen Snow
Regional Trainer - Worldwide
Parenting Program
and Worldwide Trustee - Zone B

This was a comment made by one of the participants at the recent Facilitator Training Course for the Worldwide Mothers' Union (MU) Parenting Program in the Diocese of Moosonee. Nine participants attended the training course in Sudbury, Ontario led by Lena Edmondson and Kathleen Snow, Regional Trainers for the MU Parenting Program and assisted by Maxine Simpkin, Parenting Coordinator for the Canadian Mothers' Union.

The group gathered at the Villa Loyola Retreat Centre in Sudbury, most of them having travelled two days by car to attend the course. They hailed from Wemindji, Waskaganish, Eastmain and Waswanipi First Nation communities in northern Ontario and Quebec. They travelled this distance to learn about



Ruth Corston and Irene Neeposh sharing a laugh.



The Parenting Facilitator Graduates: Front Row: Ruth Corston; Trainer Kathleen Snow; Bishop Thomas Corston; Trainer Lena Edmondson; Parenting Coordinator Maxine Simpkin. Back row: Irene Neeposh; Bert Erless; Marlene Moses-Gilpin; Agnes Flam; Patricia Pauline Erless; George Matoush; Gladys Matoush; and Beverley Gilpin.

facilitating Support Groups for parents and families in their communities.

The planning of this course first took root in September 2018 when Bishop Thomas Corston invited Kathleen to attend their Clericus Conference and introduce the Parenting Program to the clergy of the Diocese of Moosonee. Interest was expressed after the presentation, and it has taken almost 18 months of planning and prayer for the training course to become a reality.

The goal of the course was to train facilitators to run Parenting Support Groups in their communities to address

the challenging issues of raising our children to become healthy adults.

They facilitate these Support Groups in discussing topics such as effective communication, developing trust and positive self-esteem, building healthy relationships, and setting boundaries. The Parenting Program is open to those of all faiths or none.

The facilitator training was very much experiential, with the use of energizers, ice breakers, role playing, physical and artistic exercises, sketches, story-telling, improvisations and more.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Music, laughter, learning and prayer occurred each day; joys as well as sorrows were shared. We heard stories from our participants - stories of laughter, stories of pain.

Seven of the nine participants are Indigenous Cree. Lena, Maxine and I were impressed with the strength of these people, of their respect for one another, of their love for one another, of their wish to support those in their communities who are struggling. One participant had initially not planned to take the course, but simply came along with a family member. This person took part in the course, shared much with us, and was such an asset and a leader in the group.

The facilitators will use these tools and skills to meet with people in their communities to facilitate Support Groups where people share and discuss. They are not teaching, but rather listening to those in the Group and allowing everyone to share or not. The facilitator is sensitive to the needs of the Group and to the culture. It is not a cookie cutter approach; they are part of the community themselves and the Group makes it their own.

The facilitator allows for each person to share as they wish, in their own manner, to suit their own culture. The Support Group establishes ground rules, and much of the discussion is experienced in a circle, with a talking stick or conch method used so that everyone has an opportunity to share or not.

The Parenting Support Group may meet once a week for 6-8 weeks or in whatever manner works for the Group. The goal is that the facilitator will then leave the Group and allow the Group members to continue to meet on their own to support one another in parenting their children, whether they be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours, caregivers, etc. The Parenting Program is not Biblically based; it would be up to the Group if they wished to include this as part of the sessions.



The Wool Exercise: Gladys and George Matoush; Ruth Corston; Irene Neeposh; Beverly Gilpin; Maxine Simpkin; Marlene Moses-Gilpin; and Patricia Pauline Erless.

This Mothers' Union Parenting Program has been successful at a grass roots level in 23 countries worldwide since 2002. Part of the success of the program is that it is run by people in their own communities, embracing their own cultures and dynamics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-kvqvyGVWoM&t=4s>

The injustices which have occurred to the Indigenous people in Canada have been acknowledged for a number of years now, but much more is required. Reconciliation has begun, but it will take time and will be a long process. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada cited in the Calls to Action under Legacy - Child Welfare, Section 5: "We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families."¹ This Parenting Program is a first step to just that.

This Training Course could not have been a reality without the support of the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) through a grant application in 2019. Many thanks to the Anglican Foundation of Canada, the Canadian Mothers' Union and the Worldwide Mothers' Union for their generous support.

During the course, we heard stories from participants about how they are making a difference in their communities, and how they plan to move forward



Agnes Flam and Irene Neeposh sharing their creation.

with their newly acquired skills to lead Support Groups for men in their communities, for parents of children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and for families where there are addiction issues and abuse - physical, mental and spiritual. They are a resilient people, with a gentle peaceful history which they wish to share with others. My most fervent prayer is that they will.

So I have taken to heart the statement, "The rain will fall on me the same way... nature does not judge." The rain falls on us in the same way each day and it does not judge us. Whether we decide to take cover from the rain, or embrace it, or dance in it, or ask others to join us is our choice. If we choose to ask others to join in the dance and support them in bringing up children to be healthy adults and parents, then that is the most I and members of Mothers' Union could pray for.

1. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* (Toronto: James Lorimer, 2015).

Hello Mothers' Union Canada!



Greetings to all!

As I write this message we are facing a spreading global pandemic. Covid-19 has arrived in North America. My prayer is that this will pass quickly if we all practice the necessary safeguards that have been explained to us by Public Health and our governments.

2020 sees the end of our term and is usually marked with a National Conference. Unfortunately, we will not have our conference this June. The university has closed for the summer and all activities on the campus have been suspended. There will be an update once plans have been secured.

The only travel on my horizon is the ACW Conference in Newfoundland in early October. It is yet to be determined if travel will be allowed by then but here's hoping.

We have journeyed through Lent getting ready for another Easter celebration of our risen Lord! On the way we observed Mothering Sunday and Lady Day, at a distance from each other. I remember wanting to skip Good Friday to go straight to Easter. As I matured, I realized that you really can't experience the joy of Easter unless you journey through Good Friday and all its sadness. That seems to be true in many of life's

challenges. Knowing that our God is on the move to help us through all life has to throw at us often results in an uphill battle with our human selves. We believe in a God who time and time again has come to our rescue. Our God loves us without question. There is nothing we can do to earn His love. We need to trust in the Lord to guide us to make good choices.

Please pray for Mothers' Union around the world. This coronavirus will affect everyone at some level and the ripple effect will be huge! Pray for hospitals and medical staff as they work the front line. Pray for all the food service people, the vendors, and everyone involved in keeping us safe, warm and fed. Pray for the financial world to keep the economy stable. We can all pray even when we feel there is nothing we can do. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Continue to reach out to people and to care for one another with kindness. Loneliness is huge and a phone call can make all the difference to someone's world in these times of physical isolation. As someone who usually has a calendar filled with activities, I am rather enjoying the confinement.

I have prayed "Be Still and Know that I am God." I guess my prayer is being answered!

I want to address another subject. This Council has been placing ads in the Anglican Journal with hopes that we can raise awareness of Mothers' Union across the country. As President, I am the designated spokesperson. When we speak about Mothers' Union we must have all the correct information. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our Canadian membership, especially if you have been approached by a member of the media.

I pray that all members will stay safe and well as the seasons turn from winter to spring and then to summer. It is not possible to predict the future so we need to trust that by being responsible we can shorten this phase of the pandemic. Be smart and practice good hygiene always, just like Mama taught us! Wash your hands frequently and cough or sneeze into your elbow. We have a sign in our bathroom at church which says, "Wash your hands and say your prayers, 'cause germs and Jesus are everywhere."

Until next time, blessings to you all!
Alice Kennedy, President

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your disciples,
I am with you always,
even to the end of time.
Be with me today Lord,
as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers
for others and for myself,
And keep me
in your tender loving care
always.
Amen

Sheran Harper
Worldwide
Mothers' Union President

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

For the sake of Christ, then,
I am content with weaknesses,
insults, hardships, persecutions,
and calamities.

For when I am weak,
then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Building Hope and Confidence

By Lilian Ketch

Conference Coordinator and Diocese of Fredericton MU Past President

The 2020 theme for the Worldwide Mothers' Union is Building Hope and Confidence. It is important to recognize all that Mothers' Union, through its members and supporters, does to care for families both locally and globally. Knowing what is being achieved, and what we can do to further these achievements, allow us to be confident that other goals can be attained and to promote the outreach of Mothers' Union throughout the world.

This theme was the focus on my decision, as a representative of Mothers' Union, Diocese of Fredericton, to be part of the team that travelled to the Diocese of Ho in the Volta Lake Region, Ghana, West Africa from January 12-23, 2020. I joined Robbie Griffin (Link Chair, Diocese of Fredericton and companion Diocese of Ho) and Cheryl Jacobs (assistant to Bishop David Edwards). The people I met and the experience during the two weeks allowed me to increase my vision globally.

Robbie Griffin visited the region in May 2019 to assess the needs and to identify a project to be jointly funded by the Diocese of Fredericton and Rotary International, with start-up fundraising through the Rotary Club in Grand Manan. The Diocese of Ho as well as the Rotary Club of Ho also would need to commit and be "on the ground" partners to oversee logistics of the project. Bishop Matthias Kwabla Medadues-Badohu has had a vision of providing a mobile medical clinic to the rural area of the Diocese of Ho and Volta region for several years and this became the agreed upon project, after approval by Bishop David Edwards and the Companion Diocese Committee. Robbie, Lilian, and Cheryl's itinerary during their visit was to meet with various stakeholders to gather information to complete the



Global Grant application for submission to Rotary International. The application must document details confirming the project has an identified need, has capacity and be sustainable for 5 years using local resources and staff.

Bishop Matthias and his family live in the heart of the city of Ho, which has a population of almost 180,000. In the central part of Ho the roads are paved, but many outside of Ho are not.

Although most Ghanaians speak English, there are various dialects spoken, mainly Ewe in the places we visited. Bishop lives in the Anglican compound in the centre of Ho with his wife Lucy, their son, grandchildren (children of their daughters who live there to attend the school), a nephew, and a parish priest. His home is an open place of welcome and

their hospitality is incomparable. When visiting you will also meet the pet goat, a cat and two dogs. The parish school buildings (grades K to 9) are in his front yard and the little Cathedral Church is at the front of his house. The school includes the only classes for special needs children in the city. There is also a small IT lab with about 10 workstations.

In addition to working with Robbie and Cheryl on the mobile van project, I was very excited to be able to meet members of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese. The work of the Mothers' Union is very important to me and the fact that it is a global, women led, volunteer movement allows members to be united in their diversity and to live out their faith by supporting families and individuals. Embedded in the Church and community, MU members have an unprecedented reach that gives a voice to the stigmatized and vulnerable around the world.

Representatives from six Mothers'





Union branches, dressed in traditional MU uniforms, travelled to the Cathedral and shared information about their own branches. Using what we've learned from the MULO process – Mothers' Union Listening Observing Acting, I asked each branch to share their activities with me and any barriers they may encounter in their branches. Most branches meet weekly for prayer and Bible study, provide nursery and gifts to new babies, visit the sick and elderly, help with funeral costs, and assist members of their parish as needed. When asked about particular needs for her branch, one lady instantly spoke up and said "money", to which all the others agreed. Due to the vast geographical distances between parishes, transportation is expensive (gas is more expensive in Ghana than in Canada), so visiting members or parishioners or to get together with other branches for a Diocesan event is very difficult. It was a hardship for some to come to the meeting on this day. The Clergy Spouses Association in Ho often works with the Mothers' Union.

The following branches were represented: St. George's Cathedral (25 members); St. Michael and All Angels, Worawora (30 members); St. Patrick's Kpando (9 active members); St. Mark's, Dzoanti (10-11 members); St. Paul's Jasikan (new branch with 2 members);

Sogakope (planning to form a branch). The Bishop's wife, Lucy Medadues-Badohu is the current Diocesan President.

Branches do have some Mothers' Union resources but would welcome the opportunity to receive additional material (i.e. Mothers' Union Service books, Families Worldwide, MU cards, pins, Make a Mothers' Day information and other resources). The daily prayer from Families Worldwide for our meeting on January 16th read, "Heavenly Father, we thank you for the members across the world who faithfully carry out the mission of the Mothers' Union, often in challenging situations. Please bless us all as we seek to love you, and our neighbours, with all our heart." How fitting!

At the end of our gathering I committed to the following:

- to provide their branch sharings and concerns at the next Diocese of Frederickton Mothers' Union meeting
- to establish a networking link between the two dioceses to offer support and prayer (Bishop has provided me with their contacts)
- to follow up with Mothers' Union Worldwide and to investigate how MU might be able to assist in equipping and empowering members to reach their potential and transform their communities through grassroots projects.

During our stay, we experienced many local dishes. I would love to host an African night and try out some of the recipes: *Banku*, a dough of cassava and corn which is steamed and used as the 'bread' with a meal; *Fufu*, a mixture of plantain and cassava pounded in a large stone bowl with a long stick with a flat end; *Red-Red*, a dish composed of black beans, cooked in palm oil with plantains; *Plantain*, steamed, fried, and chips; *Green-Green*, a soup made from cocoyam leaves, smoked fish and spices served with Banku; *Abolo*, steamed bread made of corn flour, sugar and water; *Pino*, powdered baked cassava (gari) in beef stew sauce without the beef. All dishes are generally served with a hot sauce. Several of the dishes

are eaten without utensils. Often at a restaurant you will be given a washing bowl and a rinsing bowl (with dish soap). Dessert was often fresh mango and pineapple. We also tried "Lucy's drink" of homemade Sobolo, made with bissap leaves, ginger, sugar, and water.

In closing, I am truly thankful to have been able to visit the Diocese of Ho and particularly to meet the Mothers' Union members. The trip exceeded my expectations and helped me to expand my understanding of Mothers' Union members in other areas of the world. I am looking forward to establishing a permanent link with some of the women I met, and I pray that God will fill us with His energy to carry out His will.

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. Jeremiah 29:11

I am confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

In Christ and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12



Branch Activities

MU Member Daphne Hinds Honoured for her Sunday School Work

Submitted by Daphne Hinds

Children's ministry has been an important part of my life. I started this ministry at the age of fifteen when I was chosen to be one of the Sunday school teachers at my parish church, Christ Church, Georgetown, Guyana. I taught many grades until I was married. After that, I continued teaching in Sunday school while raising my family.

As my children, Jennifer, Michael, and Sharon grew up, I enjoyed being with the children and their friends teaching and encouraging them to excel in their academic studies and budding careers; I always reminded them that God is important in all stages of their future lives.

In 1982 I migrated to Montreal, Canada. I looked around for a worship community that offered some comfort, service, and encouragement and I discovered St. Paul's Anglican Church in the parish of Côte-des-Neiges, which had a large number of West Indian migrant families and children. I joined that parish in 1984 and again got involved with the Sunday school. The registered number of children for Sunday school was over forty but the average attendance was twenty plus. This was because

the children were not in extended family structures, as I was accustomed to in the Caribbean; there if the parents had to go to work on Sunday, the children would be cared for by the grandparents who brought them to Church. In these nuclear or one parent family structures, things were different.



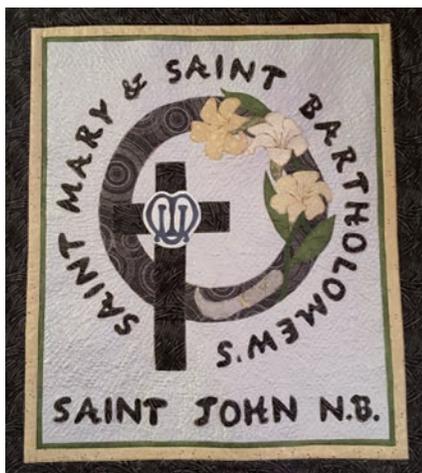
I got the children very involved in the life of the parish services. They played important parts in the services for festivals. There were short skits, liturgical dances and performances at Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and other festivals. I enjoy working in this ministry and I am still involved.

I became a member of the St. Paul's Mothers' Union in 1991. Although we followed to some extent the rules of the organization, it was conceived as a group whose primary purpose was to help ourselves and other mothers with immigrant families' struggles. The parish also had a Women's Auxiliary group which was more concerned with social development. I worked in the St. Paul's Mothers' Union, which was the only one in the Diocese of Montreal. I held the position of enrolling member of the branch and attended the National and International Conferences. In the Canadian Mothers' Union, I was appointed Lone Member

Secretary on the Canadian Council from 2009 to 2012. I tried to establish branches in other churches in the Diocese, but was only successful in opening one more branch in the now defunct parish of Trinity Memorial Church.

I continue to be active in these two

complementary ministries with grace and God's Help.



New Banner for Saint Mary and Saint Bartholomew's MU

Submitted by Joanne Fitzpatrick

Saint Mary and Saint Bartholomew's Mothers' Union branch, Saint John, NB, has a new banner. I created it as a copy of our original one, which was designed by Betty Betts, a founding member of our branch. With a few changes and a new look, the design is set

in a circle, without a beginning or end, a sign of God and infinity. The Lilies represent the Purity of Saint Mary; the Flailing Knife, a tool used by harvesters, represents Saint Bartholomew and the instrument of his martyrdom. The design is made complete by our Mothers' Union crest centered on the cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Keeping the Connection between St. Alban the Martyr and the Worldwide Mothers' Union

Submitted by Sandra Jorgensen

It was late spring 2019 when our pastor at St Alban's Glen Williams announced that a church with the same name in London, Ontario, was closing in June. Father Aaron is currently the Chaplain for our Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Niagara. He said that Patricia Lewis, a parishioner at St. Alban's London, would like to donate their church banner to our St. Alban's in order to keep the solemnity and integrity of this cherished item. Of course, the sale of their church to the Roman Catholic Church was sad, but Father Aaron said our congregation would be happy and proud to display the banner in our church in Glen Williams. Upon hearing this announcement, I offered to pick up the banner to save postal fees since I often go to London to visit my sister and I knew where Patricia's church was located, right beside Archie's Fish & Chip Restaurant, a favourite lunch place for my sister Jackie and me. When I telephoned Patricia to ask directions to her house she asked me whether I knew Archie's. I replied, "Oh yes!"; and got simple directions to

find her. On my next trip to London, Jackie and I were welcomed by Patricia who was delighted to see the banner displayed with its beautiful embroidery at St Alban's Glen Williams. She also donated a stone plaque from England's St. Alban's to us. While chatting with Patricia, I asked if she had ever heard of the Mothers' Union and she replied that one of her best friends had been the President of the Niagara Diocese of MU in the eighties. Can you imagine our surprise when Patricia named Ruth Gallagher! Jackie and I looked at each other with amazement. Jackie knew Ruth from attending some fall retreats with me and it was Ruth who came with Elspeth Newton to establish our branch of Mothers' Union in Glen Williams. We loved her passion for Mothers' Union, her wry Irish humour and the stories she told of being a pastor's wife, including needing to wear rubber boots when doing laundry in the very wet basement of the rectory at St. George's, Georgetown! Ruth Gallagher's life was a tribute to Mary Sumner and the values of Mothers' Union.

Jackie and I left Patricia's home with



a lot more than we expected. Her hospitality also included gifts of homemade jam for each of us and Father Aaron's family. I was happy to share this uplifting MU story with our parishioners and to say that I believed that the Holy Spirit was working through us to keep the connection between St. Alban the Martyr and the Worldwide Mothers' Union. Patricia Lewis had fashioned by hand the lovely banner that now has a new home with us, and its legacy will continue!

Message from the Co-Editors

We happened upon an article from the Harvard Business Review that describes the discomfort we are collectively experiencing right now as grief. Scott Berinato shares with us a Q&A interview with David Kessler, the world's foremost expert on grief.

Kessler clearly explains what is currently happening to all of us. We grieve the loss of normalcy, the fear of economic toll, the loss of connection. We feel the anticipatory grief of impending deaths.

Apply the five stages of grief to the global pandemic and it looks something like this. **Denial** - This virus won't affect us; **Anger** - You're making me stay

home and taking away my activities;

Bargaining - Okay, if I social distance for 2 weeks everything will be better, right?

Sadness - I don't know when this will end; **Acceptance** - This is happening and I have to figure out how to proceed.

Kessler has realized that there is a sixth stage of grief that needs to be recognized, which is **Meaning**. He sees this as finding light in our darkest hours. We realize we can connect through technology. We are not as isolated as we thought. For instance, Microsoft Teams is working well for our virtual MU meetings. We can switch from texting to phone calls for longer more personal

conversations. We can begin to appreciate Nature on our daily neighbourhood walks. As Christians, our faith gives us the deep meaning in our lives. With that sure knowledge, we decided that a selection of uplifting prayers would help to sustain us through these turbulent times. To quote President Alice: "Never underestimate the power of prayer."

*Take care of yourselves
and those you love,
Susan Colpitts-Judd
and Bonnie Greenwood
Newsletter Co-Editors*

Give Thanks to God for His Constant Presence with Us Through Every Circumstance of Life

Canadian Mothers' Union Prayer

Our Gracious Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your daily, your hourly, even your every moment of presence in our lives.

We know that nothing happens on earth that you do not know about it, even before it occurs.

Nothing surprises you.

You watch over us with your love, compassion and tender care.

Oh Holy God, we, as members of the Canadian Mothers' Union, are committed to trust you with our members, their families, and all those they love.

Help us to rise above these distressful times to stand united in prayer and worship.

Your Word instructs us: "...do not be afraid, do not run away but stand where we are and watch the LORD save us today."

In this, we take your hand as children of the Most High God, so that you may lead us, and our Canadian Council, through this international pandemic.

For where you are, there is peace, and we will rest in it.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Worldwide Mothers' Union Prayer from the Staff of Mary Sumner House

Loving Lord, we pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

Think of some practical ways that you can show God's love and compassion at this time.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

Take a moment to pray for those in positions of influence at local, national and international levels.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and for all who are caring for them.

Pray particularly for any known to you personally, including those who work in the health profession.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of virus.

Consider if there is anything helpful you can do for those in this category – shopping or other errands?

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

Take any opportunity to reassure those who are feeling anxious, especially over unsubstantiated concerns.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

Amen

Angela Ashwin, Church of England website

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care.

Amen

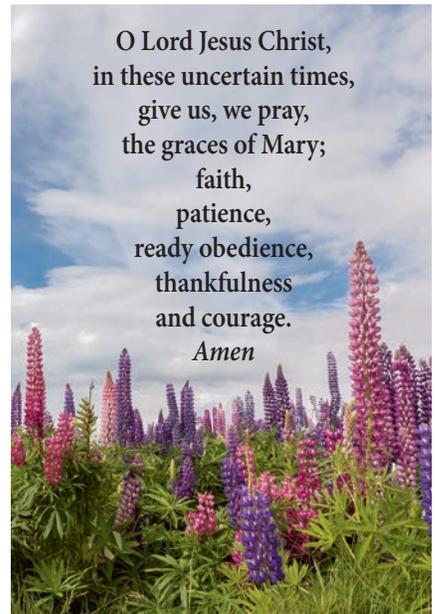
O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

There is a Warrior protecting you...
a Shepherd directing you...
a Saviour keeping you...
a Priest blessing you...
a Father loving you!
Roy Lessin

Walk in His victory,
trust in His care,
lean on His strength,
and live in His love.
Greeting Card Verse

O Lord Jesus Christ,
in these uncertain times,
give us, we pray,
the graces of Mary;
faith,
patience,
ready obedience,
thankfulness
and courage.
Amen



Message from our Mothers' Union Chaplain

I am writing my spring message during the first week of Lent. Lent is a season where we take time to reflect on ourselves to discover our need for God in our lives. As a Parish Priest, I have always tried to offer a program during Lent that helps us to discover our need for God through prayer and study, as well as time to reflect on our wasteful lifestyles, through a program of Lenten activities. I have in the past participated in the program as well.

The last two years I have joined a Lenten program through the internet. This year we are looking at the simple things of life: light, water, food, shelter, and love. These are the very basic elements of life that we never look at but simply take for granted.

Have you ever looked at light? Light gives us life and sustains life. We need light to live! Light can be a guiding light



or a blinding light to us. I would say, that most of us when we look for the Light of Christ, we think of a bright light.

This Light can give peace but can also be blinding, so blinding that we can lose our way. The Light of Christ can also be a small piercing light that can navigate us through life's turmoil. When I look at my own life it has been the small piercing light that has guided me through

life's challenges. Christ's intention is not to blind us but to guide us.

I remember in one of my parishes, I had a youth group on an outing in the back community of the parish. I happened to be driving a car that had a starter malfunction. If a problem should happen starting the car, you just needed a long screwdriver and you could jump the starter switch and the car would start. I knew what to do and

had the screwdriver with me but it was pitch black. I needed a light to guide me. All I had was a penlight which made it possible to see the two connectors to get it going. I didn't need a blinding light; I only needed enough light to guide the screwdriver.

That small light in our life is Jesus. We don't always need the bright light of Christ, just a light to guide us.

Next year at our National Conference, I will be focusing on getting out of the boat. To accomplish this, we need a guiding light to direct us as we navigate through these new waters.

I would like you to reflect on light in your life, particularly the Light of Christ. Ask yourself these questions: Is the light so blinding that you are stuck and no earthly good?

OR...

Is it a light piercing the darkness guiding you through life?

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

Special Congratulations to our Chaplain! On April 3 he celebrated 25 years as a priest.



Good-bye to our Mothers' Union Friend

Marita Shupe

Farewell to a Founding Member

St. James Armdale Mothers' Union, Halifax, NS, lost one of its founding members and a former enrolling member. Marita Shupe passed away on December 14, 2019, at the age 80.

Marita was an always-smiling presence at MU meetings until her recent struggle with Parkinson's Disease overtook her.

Mother to six and grandmother to eight, she always put others before herself. In addition to Mothers' Union, Marita was a big lover of music, and a leader in the local barbershop community.

Submitted by Mary Anne White

Treasurer's Report

Submitted By Elaine Robichaud, Treasurer

Consolidated Annual Treasurers Report 2019
Canadian Mothers Union

\$47,933.60	Bank Balance	January 1, 2019	\$60,932.74
--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	--------------------

Receipts			
	Dues Received	12,929.55	
	Extra Newsletter	130.00	
	General fund donations	96.50	
	Nat Conference Receipts	990.00	
	Travel Fund	3,554.09	
	MSH Donation	60.00	
	NCFF	13,902.96	
	Make a Mothers Day (MSH)	1,265.00	
	Northern Parenting	1,540.00	
	Rev. Debbie Strickland memorial Fund	444.00	
	Lady Day Overseas Fund	1,447.25	
	Parentling Program	0.00	
	Literature	277.00	
\$24,984.84			\$36,636.35
Expenses			
	CC Meeting Travel	176.27	
	Nat Conference Expenses	784.46	
	CC Coordinator Floats	0.00	
	CC Lone member	63.35	
	Presidents Travel - ww comissioning	1,265.61	
	Presidents Expenses	970.95	
	Travel ACW Conference	1,248.08	
	Travel Rwanda Conference	4,273.36	
	Travel Jamaica Conference	2,000.00	
	Newsletter Printing Postage	5,220.46	
	New Branch expense	62.48	
	Bank Charges	43.63	
	Anglican Journal Marketing	1,417.50	
	Anglican Foundation Donation	50.00	
	NCFF Gifts	20,109.60	
	Northern Parenting Expenses	15.92	
	Literature expenses	785.04	
\$20,577.11			\$38,486.71
\$52,341.33	Bank Balance	December 31, 2019	\$59,082.38

Closing Balance	Allocation of Funds	Opening Balan	Closing Balance
\$26,499.60	General Fund	\$27,698.95	\$26,499.60
\$1,062.00	Dues to MSH - 177(2020) members x \$ 6	\$234.00	\$1,062.00
\$729.29	Travel Fund	\$3,492.25	\$729.29
\$2,074.68	NCFF	\$15,022.37	\$8,815.73
\$0.00	MAMD	\$620.00	\$0.00
\$9,855.47	MAMD Northern Parenting	\$8,241.39	\$9,855.47
\$1,699.00	Rev Debbie Strickland	\$1,255.00	\$1,699.00
\$155.00	Lady Day (Overseas fund)	\$0.00	\$155.00
\$1,150.76	Parenting	\$1,150.76	\$1,150.76
\$6,405.55	MSH	\$0.00	\$6,405.55
\$2,709.98	Literature	\$3,218.02	\$2,709.98
\$52,341.33	Year End Balance	\$60,932.74	\$59,082.38

Canadian Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer 2020

	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	Diocese of Rupert's Land St. Stephen's Winnipeg, MB	Diocese of Fredericton St. Paul's Hampton, NB	Diocese of New Westminster 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 ACW 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 All Diocesan 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 Summer House	All Members Worldwide