

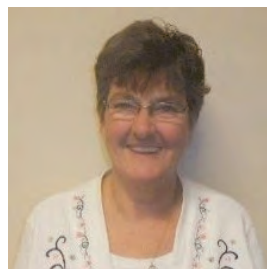


The CANADIAN MOTHERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

www.themothersunion.org

www.mothersunioncanada.ca

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Summer 2015



On April 25th I was invited to speak at the Diocese of Fredericton Spring Rally held in Grand Bay-Westfield. As requested I talked about my life and journey leading to my position as Provincial President of Canada. Janice Jackson accompanied me to the rally and we both enjoyed the chance to renew and also make new friendships.

On April 30th Janice, Mary & I held a steering committee breakfast meeting at Trinity Church, Halifax to which were invited Bishop Sue Moxley, Cynthia Pelichos, the diocesan A.C.W. President, Debbie Fice, Diocesan Mothers' Union President and Tanya Moxley, a Parenting Program Facilitator. The purpose of this meeting was for us, as

Canadian Council Members, to get ideas on how to move forward the Mothers' Union Parenting Program in this diocese and also to find ways to make contact with persons interested in being trained as facilitators. Those we invited all have connections either through their work or volunteering. The meeting was a success in that we now enough people interested in becoming facilitators to hold a training course. Celia Dodds and Kathleen Snow will be coming to Dartmouth to run the course during the last week of September.

On May 27th members of the Canadian Council spent the night at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck. This is where the National Biennial Conference will be held in June 2016. A tour of the facilities was provided in order that we could plan where and how the various conference events are to take place, and also what equipment will be needed. Debbie Strickland and Connie Barnes who are the Conference Coordinators along with all the members of the St. John's North Sydney branch hosted our council meeting at their church on the Saturday. As they are all involved in the conference planning and will play a big role in hosting us at the actual event, it gave us the opportunity to get to know them all ahead of time.

The Mothers' Union had a display at the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Synod, showing the work of the Mothers' Union, its programs both at home and overseas as well as information about membership in the organization. I gave a Power Point presentation to members of Synod explaining the Mothers' Union Parenting Program.

I trust that you all enjoyed the Summer break and are refreshed and ready to continue the work of the Mothers' Union when meetings resume in the Fall. Love and blessings,

Margaret de Carvalho, Canadian President

From the Editor

Hello! In this issue you will find the registration form and information about the National Biennial Conference. There are descriptions of the tours and workshops, and some bios of the presenters. The remainder of the bios will be in the next newsletter. I hope you enjoy the articles, pictures and reading about and selecting your workshops and tour for the conference, and that you're getting excited about attending! As always, I welcome your submissions for future issues.

Elizabeth Court

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Mothers' Union bids a fond "Farewell" to Chief Executive Reg Bailey CBE

"All good things must come to an end" and never has a truer word been spoken than for Mothers' Union Chief Executive, Reg Bailey CBE, who leaves the organisation after 17 faithful years. Reg was brought into the role after years in the Fresh Produce industry (yes, he was the man from Del Monte) and his remit was to stabilise the financial situation for the charity – something that he thought would keep him in the role for around three years. Well, as it turns out there was much more for him to do, so he stayed a little longer!



The last 17 years have seen much change to the organisation; there was a re-branding exercise to update the organisations image, the introduction of the Church & Community Mobilisation process in our work overseas, the creation of projects and programmes such as Away From It All holidays and Loving for Life, the creation of Mothers' Union enterprises (MUe) and an increasing emphasis on individual fundraising to ensure financial stability for the charity. A lot has been going on, but as Reg points out "whilst there is a single family out there that needs to know about the love of our relational God, we still have work to do". So whilst it is an end of an era, the organisation will continue to push forward and evolve.



Undoubtedly one of the highlights of his career with Mothers' Union was the influential Bailey Review which he undertook on behalf of the UK government. The Review looked at the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood and gave recommendations for industries going forward – many of which have now been successfully implemented. He can be assured that Mothers' Union will continue its advocacy for the cause, highlighted with the publishing of the Bye Buy Childhood 2015 Report in March.

Reg has also overseen the increase of membership overseas, for example in places such as Tanzania where membership has doubled. However he admits his frustration at the lack of uptake in membership across the UK and Ireland! He says; "We are not simply a cosy group; our members are involved to be salt and light to the earth". One of his wishes for Mothers' Union as he leaves is that our membership becomes more confident in what they can achieve and as such is revitalised and energised in the important work that they are carrying out in communities throughout the world.



When looking back on his time with Mothers' Union, Reg is very clear that it is the people he will remember and miss the most. At his last General Meeting at the end of June, Reg told the audience about a Mothers' Union Member, Jolly, who lived in Uganda and had adopted the nine children of her neighbours that had succumbed to HIV/AIDS;

*"I asked her 'why would you adopt them?' 'But why wouldn't I' she responded 'I am a Christian'. And then she said something that will always remain with me as it chimes with everything that we stand for in Mothers' Union; **'I want to enable them to become complete men and women who can be blessings to the world in the way the live their lives'**".*

And so as Reg takes his leave from Mothers' Union not only are we left with his legacy of all that he has achieved for the organisation but also with his challenge to turn our faith into action; making a difference and supporting families throughout the world.

~ from the July 2015 Mothers' Union Newsletter

News Release



Mothers' Union appoints new Chief Executive

Mrs Beverley Jullien has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of Christian membership charity, Mothers' Union.

During her successful career in both the corporate and education sectors Beverley Jullien has been at the vanguard of women's representation at senior board level, including leading the merger of Astra and Zeneca in the UK in 2000 and a period serving as Vice-President [for AstraZeneca.]

Beverley Jullien said "I'm delighted to be joining Mothers' Union. This offers a wonderful opportunity to apply the skills and experience I've gained in my career to a new role in the not for profit sector. I'm excited to be joining a worldwide organisation of over four million members, men and women working together to support families through fighting poverty and injustice and tackling family issues."

As well as her global experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Mrs Jullien's previous roles have included a Pro-Vice Chancellorship at London South Bank University. Alongside her considerable experience at corporate board level, Mrs Jullien will bring to Mothers' Union her extensive understanding and experience of the not for profit sector: she set up a unique service for the British Olympic Association for the 2012 London Games to help professionalise Sports Governing Bodies; she has served on the Open University International Advisory Board, and volunteers regularly in local community outreach and fundraising. Mrs Jullien and her family are active members of their local Anglican church and she is proud to be continuing a long tradition of membership of Mothers' Union.

"We are delighted to be welcoming Beverley to Mothers' Union" said Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey. "As we look to build on our strong heritage, whilst moving forward towards our strategic goals, Beverley brings to Mothers' Union her deep faith, her talents and her experience all of which will enable us to do more to transform communities worldwide through our prayers, our practical programme work and our advocacy."



Mrs Beverley Jullien MA (Cantab), CDir, FIoD has over 30 years experience in the pharmaceuticals industry and higher education operating nationally and internationally at a senior level in operational and strategic roles. As a linguist her language skills – including French, Portuguese, German, Spanish and some Mandarin – will be welcomed by Mothers' Union across the 83 countries where we are operational.



A few photos from the Mothers' Union Canadian Council Meeting held in Cape Breton in May 2015. St. John's, North Sydney branch provided a lovely lunch!



Canadian Mothers' Union Financial Statement

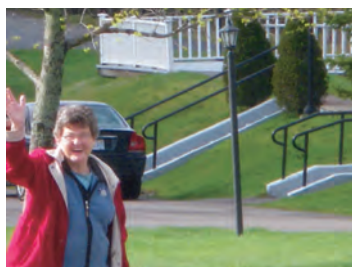
January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

Bank Balance	January 1, 2015		\$45,538.96
Receipts	Dues (512 members)	\$9,681.28	
	Extra newsletters	\$100.00	
	Travel Fund	\$1,435.15	
	NCFF	\$1,760.10	
	Make A Mother's Day – England (MSH)	\$1,057.00	
	Northern Parenting (includes MAMD)	\$1,495.00	
	Lady Day, Overseas	\$1,033.87	
	Government of Canada – GST/HST rebate	\$589.86	
	General Donations	\$200.00	
			\$17,352.26
Expenses	Travel to CC meetings	\$219.02	
	Coordinators' expenses	\$214.92	
	Newsletter printing and postage	\$1,460.07	
	NCFF – Transfer of funds	\$3,100.00	
	Transfer of Biennial silent auction funds to travel fund	\$432.00	
	Gift for Reg Bailey	\$97.99	
	Cheque returned	\$25.00	
	Bank charges	\$8.40	
			\$5,557.40
Bank Balance	June 30, 2015		\$57,333.82
Allocation of Funds	General Acct	\$41,441.68	
	Dues held for MSH	\$3,660.00	
	Travel Fund	\$2,937.75	
	NCFF	\$52.47	
	MAMD	\$1,396.00	
	MSH	\$100.00	
	Northern Parenting	\$3,915.00	
	Parenting Program	\$1,511.70	
	Overseas Fund	\$1,380.87	
	Arctic Fund	\$938.35	
			\$57,333.82

The bank balance does not include the Sarah Marshall Trust Fund (NCFF) in the amount of \$4000.00.

Term deposit matures October 17, 2018. Interest rate 3.00%.

Total number of paid up members for 2015: 564



Margaret de Carvalho (above);
Rev. Debbie Strickland and
Rev. Marilyn Murphy (right).





Chaplain's Message



By the time you receive this newsletter, Summer will have ended, and Fall will have started. For many, vacation time is over and our children and grandchildren are back to school. Mothers' Union Branches will be meeting and planning their Fall and Winter programs. Things are still green and growing but soon it will be harvest time. A time of Thanksgiving for all of the bounty that God provides for us. A time to share this bounty with those in need.

The lessons from John's Gospel during the last few Sundays of August were challenging when Jesus talked about the sharing of his body and blood. To his followers of that time, it was very confusing. Over the centuries we have come to realize that the Eucharist is Jesus' way of sharing the bounty of his love for us as Children of God and for that we give thanks.

These lines from a very old hymn express how I feel:

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices. Amen.

The Reverend Marilyn Murphy
Canadian Chaplain



“Catch the Spirit” National Biennial Conference 2016 Baddeck, Nova Scotia

Well, here it is....the long-awaited registration form and all the info for the Conference. I hope you are beginning to make plans to attend. Join us and “Catch the Spirit”...the spirit of Mothers' Union...and of course, “Catch the Spirit”...the Holy Spirit.

The next several pages are all Conference information. Take your time and read through it carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or Betty, the Registrar.

The tour info is also included. I hope you will plan on taking in one of the scheduled tours. Cape Breton is a beautiful place. I only wish we were able to take you to see all that there is. I think we have chosen the “highlights” for you though. If you are not up for the scheduled tours, Baddeck is a very interesting village with lots to see. The resort has a spa, but you would have to book an appointment yourself...and don't forget there is also a swimming pool. Baddeck also has many quaint gift shops, restaurants and a wealth of history.

My email address is ds_65@hotmail.com. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We want this to be an enjoyable time for you, and we are eagerly awaiting your arrival.

Your sister in Christ,
Debbie Conference Coordinator

Literature & Marketing

I hope everyone had a wonderful Summer. I know it's hard to think of now, but the Mothers' Union Conference in beautiful Cape Breton Island is less than 9 months away. If you want to order a slim diary, Christmas cards or calendars, please speak to your Branch Literature Secretary. I am now in the process of selecting a company who can supply us with items bearing the Mothers' Union and Conference Logos. I will have a full selection of merchandise to sell at the conference. If members have any requests for special items they would like to see, please let your Branch Literature Secretary know and I'll see what I can do.

All the best, Dawn



2016 National Mothers' Union Conference Cape Breton Tour Information

Cabot Trail Tour - Tour Duration 7-8 Hours
\$70 per Person (Min 30/Max 56 Participants)

Join in on a tour of Cape Breton's world famous Cabot Trail. The journey will delight & amaze you as a new discovery waits around almost every turn. The Cabot Trail takes a 185 mile loop around a sizeable chunk of the island, passing through Cape Breton Highlands National Park at its northernmost point.

With some of the most spectacular scenery you have ever witnessed, colourful artisan studios and much more, this scenic drive will lift you over majestic mountains with stops at look-offs as it hugs the Atlantic Ocean coastline. Come and enjoy our rich culture. You will appreciate the friendly informality of your tour. Sit back, relax & enjoy the informative commentary where questions are encouraged and good conversation makes for a pleasant trip. Have your camera ready for the amazing photo opportunities as there is so much to see on this wonderful excursion.

A Taste of Cape Breton Excursion - Tour Duration 6-7 Hours
\$50.00 per Person (Min 30/ Max 56 Participants)

This tour begins in St. Ann's with a visit to the beautiful Gaelic College renowned for its cultural learning experience. Participants will have the opportunity to watch an authentic kilt making demonstration followed by a fun & lively session on the Gaelic language where you will learn a few key phrases. Next the group will take part in a milling frolic; learning the history of the frolic & how to "beat the blanket". Keeping with the fun & entertaining side of the Gaelic culture the tour continues with the "music & steps" workshop with step-dancing lessons, fiddlers, bagpipes, etc. Be sure to take the time to explore the Gift Shop before leaving. From St. Ann's we travel to Sydney, home of the World's Largest Fiddle where you can enjoy a leisurely walk around the waterfront, take in some shopping or explore some historic landmarks such as Jost House, Cossitt House, St. Patrick's Church or St. George's Anglican Church (the oldest Anglican Church in Cape Breton, built between 1785-1791). Back on the bus we head along to Ben Eoin to what was once a one room school house built in 1939 & is now the home of Rita's Tea Room & Gift Shop. Nothing is more relaxing in the afternoon than a good cup of tea with any one of the delicious desserts offered. You are sure to also enjoy roaming around the Gift Shop which has a wonderful selection of items including many "local Cape Breton-made goodies".

Mid-Day Experience Baddeck Package - Tour Duration 4 Hours
\$40.00 per Person (Min 20/Max 42 Participants)

The name Baddeck, according to some historians, is derived from the Mi'Kmaq 'Abadak' meaning place with an island near. You are invited to come, join in & participate in a mid-morning guided Walking Tour of Baddeck & experience a glimpse of its humble beginning and history along with experiencing the village today. Following the tour enjoy your lunch in one of the many public areas or meander down along the waterfront and rest awhile before embarking on your afternoon sailing adventure on the Amoeba. Amoeba Sailing Tours is a small family business operating from the beautiful resort village of Baddeck. The tour offers passengers a unique opportunity to sail the Bras d'Or Lakes from the deck of a 67ft. schooner. You will observe the majestic bald eagles as they circle the boat, see Alexander Graham Bell's mansion Beinn Bhreagh, as well as the beautiful shoreline of Baddeck. Relax and enjoy an entertaining and educational narrative of the area on the deck of a boat unique on all of the Bras d'Or Lakes. We invite you to join us aboard the Amoeba for a sailing experience as unique and unforgettable as Cape Breton's Bras d'Or Lakes.

Morning Amoeba Sailing Tour - Duration 1 ½-2 Hours
\$25.00+tax per Person

If you're looking for something to do on your own time, why not head down to the Baddeck waterfront and take the **11:00am** morning sail around the Bay with Amoeba Sailing Tours? Tickets can be purchased directly from Amoeba Tours on the waterfront. For details on the tour please read description found above in the ***Mid-Day Experience Baddeck Package***.

Canadian Mothers' Union National Conference 2016

Registration Form

Please complete registration form and mail, with payment to:

Betty Mansfield, Conference Registrar
44 High Street, North Sydney, N.S. B2A 2A4
(902) 794-3918 bettymansfield2@gmail.com

Participant Information:

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____

MailingAddress _____ Cell Phone _____

Town/City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Email Address _____ Parish Name _____

Arrival Information:

Airline _____ Flight _____ Date & Time of Arrival _____

Airline _____ Flight _____ Date & Time of Departure _____

Voting Status: I am a voting delegate YES ____ NO ____

I will be the designate proxy for the following voting delegate: (please print) _____

Please remember to include the proxy with your registration for the conference and carry a copy of the proxy with you to the general meeting. If you require a proxy form please contact Mary Stone (contact information on the back of the newsletter).

Special Considerations:

I have the following food allergy or concern: _____

I have the following mobility issues and require: _____

Banners and Worship Services:

I am bringing a banner and stand from _____ Branch/Diocese.

Banner Buddy Name: _____ (Please Note: Banner stands NOT provided)

I would like to participate in Worship Services in the following area:

__ Scripture Readings __ Prayers __ Eucharistic Minister __ Choir

Workshops: (Note: Everyone may attend 2 Workshops. Please rank your preferences from 1-5)

___ M. U. Parenting Support Program with Celia Dodds & Kathleen Snow

___ Hear What the Holy Spirit is Saying with Jackie Warren

___ Horticultural Healing with Janice Morrison

___ Gender-Based Violence with Mary Stone & Janice Jackson

___ Card-making with Dawn Skene & Elizabeth Court

Tours:

___ Cabot Trail Bus Tour (Minimum 30 Maximum 56 @ \$50 per person)

___ A Taste of Cape Breton Bus Excursion (Minimum 30 Maximum 56 @ \$50 per person)

___ Mid-Day Experience Baddeck Package (Maximum 25 @ \$40 per person)

___ Amoeba Boat Tour (Maximum 25 @ \$25 per person)

Registration Fees: PRE-REGISTRATION Deadline February 16th, 2016

Includes - 10 Meals, 4 Nights' Accommodations, Workshops & Banquet

Single Occupancy \$750.00 (per person)

Double Occupancy \$499.00 (per person)

Triple Occupancy \$425.00 (per person)

Day Delegate Fee \$100.00 (per person)

Extra Closing Banquet Ticket \$ 35.00 (per person)

I am sharing a room with _____

Fee Calculation:

Registration Fee \$_____ (per person)

Tour Fee \$_____

Day Delegate \$_____ (excludes accommodation & banquet)

Extra Banquet Ticket \$_____

SUB TOTAL \$_____

Pre-Registration Fee \$ -125.00 (Non-Refundable)

GRAND TOTAL \$_____

Please make cheques payable to **The Canadian Mothers' Union**

A \$100 Late Registration Fee will be added
to registrations received after **February 16th, 2016**

CONFERENCE FEE BALANCE DUE IN FULL: April 18th, 2016

Email confirmation will be sent once registration and payment has been received.

Workshop Descriptions

Mothers' Union Parenting Program Workshop:

This workshop will demonstrate to participants what an actual Mothers' Union Parenting Program session entails. Celia and Kathleen will guide the participants through a session, which will include large and small group discussion, ice breakers, activities to engage, some laughter and fellowship. Participants will come away with an understanding of the benefits of the program, and just might learn a thing or two about parenting from their MU friends in the group.

Hear What the Spirit is Saying: "Let us be silent, that we may hear the whisper of God" -Unknown

Many today think God cannot be heard any longer. Through Jesus Christ & the Holy Spirit God wants to speak to us & lead us to the good things that are yet to be. We must be open to what the Spirit is calling us to "today". We are to look to the Holy Spirit in all that we do. This session will focus on the Holy Spirit and how we recognize, interact and understand what the Spirit is calling "us" to at this present time and how "we" can put that call into action.

FACILITATOR BIO: Jackie Warren was born and raised in Cape Breton & received her B.A/B.ED from Acadia University. She worked for many years in Executive Director roles in NB & mainland NS before returning to Cape Breton where she studied Clinical Pastoral Education and worked as a hospital chaplain in the areas of oncology & palliative care. Jackie is a Postulant for Ordination and a recent graduate from AST and the CB Region ACW President. While living in Dartmouth Jackie was a member of Mothers' Union and now is a part of St. John the Baptist branch in North Sydney where she resides. Jackie has one daughter who currently is living in BC.

Horticultural Therapy:

There are therapeutic benefits that we may not have considered in some of our routine tasks and hobbies. Join Janice Morrison, Horticultural Therapist, for a unique look at the benefits of gardening and connecting with nature to improve our lives.

FACILITATOR BIO: Janice Morrison, Graduate of Ornamental Horticulture from the NS Agricultural College, worked for over 30 years with her husband Lloyd in their business, Morrison's Greenhouses, in Southside Boularderie. Growing tree seedlings was their major crop for many years, and for the last 15 years of greenhouse operation, the focus was annuals, perennials, custom basket and planter design. Over the years Janice & Lloyd held many workshops for seniors, school children and the public. In 2011 she completed a Certificate in Horticultural Therapy through Homewood Psychiatric Hospital, Guelph, ON. She is among the few to have done so in the Maritimes and the only one in Cape Breton. She has been a member of the Advisory Committee for the Common Roots Urban Farm project with Capital Health in Halifax and is vice-chair of the board of ACAP Cape Breton – Centre for Sustainable Communities. Janice currently works with Cancer patients and survivors from the Cape Breton Cancer Centre. She also delivers therapeutic horticulture to the residents of the The Cove Guest Home in Sydney and Seaview Manor in Glace Bay.

Gender-Based Violence:

This workshop looks at violence against women in particular. We will look at the statistics of violence against women and what Mothers' Union is and can be doing. The voices of abused women will be the basis for our discussions which will conclude with a moving and hopeful look at one woman's story. It is hoped that the workshop participants will leave with an increased awareness of this complex and sensitive issue and with some strategies to use at their branch/parish level. Each participant will receive the resource Healing Waters: Churches Working to End Violence Against Women.

Card-Making:

Explore your creative talents in this hands-on workshop. The facilitators will guide you through various techniques to create two beautiful greeting cards with messages of faith that you can keep as mementos, or give to a loved one or friend for a variety of occasions. Follow the steps to copy the samples, or be adventurous and change them to reflect your unique personality!

REMEMBERING MAMA ALICE MARGARET MOKOENA (NOVEMBER 4, 1927 TO APRIL 1, 2015)


When Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Fredericton heard the news of Mama Alice's passing in Soweto, South Africa our feelings of sadness were tempered by our secure knowledge that this precious woman of deep faith was indeed united with her Lord and Saviour. Her devotion to and belief in the work of Mothers' Union was steadfast and she was an inspiration to all of us who were privileged to know her. Mama Alice was a true matriarchal character who always commanded respect in any situation because she was living proof of where a God-centred life could lead you. In her case, it brought her from a harsh life under apartheid rule in South Africa to Fredericton, New Brunswick at the age of 62.

Mama Alice's life story is extraordinary and the details she shared with us in instalments over the years were as rich as any novel ever written by Charles Dickens. We saw her felled by tragedy when her son Thabo died and watched her find the inner strength she needed to return to Canada to finish her degree at St. Thomas University. She made the national news when she graduated in 2007 at the age of 79 with her BA majoring in human rights and anthropology and minoring in philosophy and sociology. Class discussions with Mama Alice would have brought a depth of understanding to participating students that no textbook would ever have supplied. Hearing her joyful African cheer as she walked across the stage that sunny May day to receive her degree was unforgettable. It was so important to her that some of her Mothers' Union sisters be there to witness one of the happiest days in her life so we could share the memories with her.



One of Mama Alice's greatest gifts was her ability to make a strong and lasting connection with everyone she met. She had a very pragmatic approach to life and understood that we are all meant to support each other. If she needed something, she had no hesitation about asking for help and she always had complete confidence that her wishes fell in the realm of possibility. Her sister Mabel from Pretoria came for an extended visit and our MU members at Christ Church (Parish) Church met her on several occasions. Mama Alice wanted Mabel to join our group travelling to Hamilton to the MU National Conference in 2004 and we were able to make this happen. It was heartwarming to overhear bits of the animated conversations wafting from the dormitory room they shared. They spoke in their native language and the depth of love they had for each other as sisters with shared experiences was powerfully tangible.

Mama Alice treasured the many freedoms she enjoyed in Canada. She acknowledged that by Canadian standards she was quite poor, but she had learned that the meaning in her own life came from sharing and love. With this philosophy she gave back to her church and community in her daily life. She was a faithful choir member at Christ Church (Parish) Church and was a member of the ACW as well as the Mothers' Union. She was honoured as a life member of the Multicultural Association of Fredericton. She belonged to the Wisemenettes and it was while rushing on foot to volunteer for this group at the local exhibition that she fell and broke her leg. She was also a member of the New Brunswick African Association and the African Student Union. She served on the board of directors and tenants at St. Anne's Lodge, where she lived and even had a little garden patch. Mama Alice could readily adapt to any situation and make it work for all concerned. We loved her spicy African cooking, especially the sweet potatoes she often brought to our shared meals.



Mama Alice loved children and you would usually find her surrounded by little ones at church gatherings. She worked for several years in a daycare and cared for children privately. African families, who had settled with children in the area and who had no extended family here, welcomed her into their lives with the deepest respect. Before she left Soweto to come to Canada in 1990, she had been responsible for the care of several orphaned children in her extended family. She brought 11 year old Likomo, the youngest of these children, with her to Canada in 1990. Two years later, with the sponsorship of Christ Church (Parish) Church, her grandson Khothatso arrived and she raised him to adulthood. You would never have realized that she had lost two of her own daughters at very young ages due to the conditions of extreme poverty in which they lived.

Mama Alice slowed down a little as her leg healed, but still managed to walk everywhere with a cane. We will never forget the sight of her chasing the front tire that had rolled off the minivan she was going home in after attending the MU National Conference in Sackville in 2008. We were concerned for her safety and packed her off to Fredericton in another MU car that had stopped on the highway. We had a hard time convincing her to go as she was not one to walk away from any sort of adventure! She decided to move to Dartmouth with Khothatso's young family in her last years.

and attended St. Luke's Anglican Church which had an active MU branch. She was soon busy knitting squares for quilts which were given to the needy in the area. When she was diagnosed with bladder cancer, she had the full support of her beloved Mothers' Union, whose members had been there for her since she first joined the group in Soweto in 1970.

Mama Alice's life is indeed a full circle story. She went back to South Africa for an extended visit after having attended her grandson Eugene's funeral, knowing more treatment was needed for her advancing cancer. She came home to start radiation therapy and it became clear to Mama Alice that God was calling her home to spend her last days with her Soweto family. She made the decision to move back permanently and we all prayed for her to have the strength to catch her flight at the end of October 2013. Visiting her at the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax, where she stayed while receiving radiation, we were amazed and uplifted to see her spiritual strength as she spent her days in contemplative prayer, while receiving a steady stream of visitors.

Mama Alice lived 17 months after her return to Soweto, surrounded by the love and care of her family. She was there to see Nelson Mandela lying in state and was able to reflect with gratitude on the monumental changes that had occurred during her lifetime. Her memories of her 23 years in Canada travelled home with her, safe in her razor-sharp mind. Her leaving was bittersweet to all of us who loved her, but picturing her sitting in a chair under bright African skies with a radiant smile of contentment on her face was a very comforting image. We celebrate a life where hope and love always joyfully triumphed over tremendous adversity and her stories will always be shared with broad smiles.

~Submitted by Susan Colpitts-Judd , Press Secretary and Lilian Ketch, Diocesan President, Diocese of Fredericton

Diocese of Montreal News

TRINITY MEMORIAL CHURCH MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH

Our members are very motivated and encouraged by the establishment of a new "Family Life Project" which has been started here at our church by the Rev. Deacon Jessica Bickford as the coordinator. This project reaches out to support families within our parish and our local community. With respect to families, the focus is on children, their parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles and any other relatives. We consolidated our union with this project when we celebrated "Black History Month" on February 15th 2015 with church families , friends and visitors following the Sunday morning Eucharist.

The afternoon was enjoyed by all; soul food, games and readings were provided, here I am in the picture (below, left) with a small group, reading one of Maya Angelou's poems, "And still I rise" which was followed by a short discussion.

On Mothering Sunday, March 15th 2015, two new members were enrolled in our Branch by the Rev. Canon Joyce Sanchez, our priest. After the enrollment service, we celebrated this great event with our favorite "Simnel Cake" made by our Diocesan Representative Verna Dottin.

We are now looking forward to organizing a bake sale in the month of May, and our end of season Joint service with the men's fellowship group sometime in June.

Submitted by Sylvia Brathwaite, Branch Leader Please keep Sylvia in your prayers as she was hospitalized after a serious accident on August 8, 2015. (Happily, she is now out of the Intensive Care Unit; we pray for her continued improvement.)



In the picture from left to right are Canon Joyce Sanchez, Deacon Jessica Bickford (enrolled member), Gloria, Bonnie Farmer (enrolled member), Sylvia, Cynthia, Sheila, Verna and Kyren.

