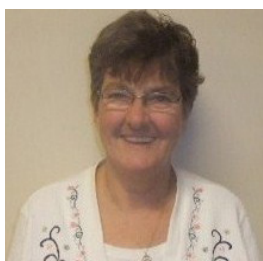


The CANADIAN MOTHERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

www.themothersunion.org

www.mothersunioncanada.ca

**Volume 5
Issue 2
Fall
2013**



On Saturday May 11, 2013, Mothers' Union members from across the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island met in St. James' Church in Halifax for a Eucharist in celebration of 125 years of Mothers' Union in Canada and for the installation of the new Canadian Council of Mothers' Union. The very Rev. Paul Smith conducted the installation in the presence of His Honour Brigadier-General, the Honourable J.J. Grant and Her Honour Mrs. Joan Grant. We were thrilled to have with us our Canadian Past President Celia Dodds, and 6 members from New Brunswick. The service was preceded by a Spring Rally highlighting the Make a Mothers' Day campaign, a possible presence of Mothers' Union in the North, and a Reflection on Mothering ending with a fun look at Mothers' Union meetings. (Cont'd on p. 2)



2013 installation of Canadian Council

Front Row His Honour Brigadier-General the Honourable J. J. Grant, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Her Honour Mrs. Joan Grant
Middle row Janice Jackson, Vice President, Margaret deCarvalho, President, Rev Marilyn Murphy, Chaplain, Dawn Skene, Treasurer, Shirley Leitch, Link Coordinator.

Back row - Mary Stone, Secretary, Kathleen Snow, Representative to the North, Ethel Nelson, Indoor Member's Prayer Circle Coordinator, Rev Debbie Strickland, Conference Coordinator, Elizabeth Court, Newsletter Editor, Sandra Lavers, Lone Members Coordinator, Marilyn Scott, Historian, Linda MacLachlan, Northern Clergy Families Fund. Missing from the photo is Dawn Snyder, Literature and Marketing Co-ordinator.

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The Canadian Council has met three times since my last report. Once in May, once in September and again in November. The booking has been finalized for the Biennial Conference to be held at the Atlantica Hotel in Halifax November 7th –9th, 2014. Plans are well under way for the National Conference, which will be held June 1st – June 5th 2016 at the Inverary Resort in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. This will be an opportunity to meet our new Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, who has graciously accepted the invitation to be the guest of honour at the National Conference. Long ways off you are thinking, but now is the time to start putting away your dollars. If you have never been to Cape Breton this may be the time to think about extending your stay and perhaps making this a family holiday. Mark both these dates on your calendar and more details will be sent as they become available.

At the Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island Synod held in May, a Mothers' Union display table attracted a great amount of interest; especially the 125th anniversary stole which was commissioned by the Mothers' Union of this Diocese. The stole has begun its journey to each parish in this diocese that has a Mothers' Union branch, to be worn by the priest of that parish. It will then make its way around the country. During Synod Mary Stone and I gave a power point presentation detailing the work of the Mothers' Union at branch, diocesan and worldwide level. In September I was invited as the guest speaker at the 125th anniversary celebration service and tea put on by the Milton, Prince Edward Island branch. I attended the Anglican Church Women's National Conference held October 3rd to 6th in Halifax. I found this to be a very inspirational as well as educational time shared with sisters of faith from all parts of Canada.

Two parenting courses have been held in New Brunswick and another is planned for January. A course was also held in British Columbia. The exciting news is that Celia Dodds and Kathleen Snow are attending a training event in Guyana for the Mothers' Union Worldwide Parenting Program. This will provide them with the skills to train facilitators here in Canada.

Linda MacLachlan was in touch with the bishops in the north. 12 gifts of \$950 have been sent out. Linda has updated the Northern Clergy Families Fund brochure, which the council approved.

It is hard to believe that 2 seasons have passed since the last newsletter. I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful summer and fall and had a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May your hearts and homes be filled with Joy and peace.

Margaret.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Canadian Mothers' Union Financial Statement January 1, 2013 –October 17, 2013

Bank Balance	January 1, 2013	\$403.74
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Receipts	Transfer from previous Canadian Council	\$46,356.94	
	Dues for 2013 (576 members)	\$10,892.30	
	Dues for 2014 (1 member)	\$25.00	
	Extra newsletters ordered	\$140.00	
	Travel Fund	\$733.33	
	NCFF	\$1,854.22	
	MAMD	\$3,589.00	
	Count Your Blessings (Family Life)	\$61.52	
	Overseas Fund (Lady Day)	\$1,090.88	
	United Way Toronto	\$14.00	
	Saint Paul University – charged twice for HST	\$2,704.14	
	Installation Offering (½ to MAMD, ½ to Arctic Fund)	\$433.00	
	GST rebate	\$4,232.41	
	Interest	\$2.02	
			\$72,128.76

Expenses	Adobe InDesign program	\$836.52	
	Postage and supplies for Coordinators	\$336.37	
	Literature & Marketing float	\$1,000.00	
	NCFF – transfer of funds	\$2,300.00	
	Inverary Resort – Deposit for 2016 Conference	\$1,000.00	
	Accommodations for Celia Dodds	\$70.00	
	Website design	\$126.08	
	Wire payment fee (funds from BC)	\$14.00	
	Travel	\$495.00	
	Newsletter printing & postage	\$1,368.69	
	Transfer to GIC	\$4,000.00	
			\$11,546.66

Bank Balance	October 17, 2013	\$60,985.84
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Allocation of Funds			
	General Fund	\$45,187.01	
	Portion of dues to go to Mary Sumner House	\$3,468.01	
	Travel Fund	\$3,008.29	
	NCFF	\$254.22	
	MAMD	\$6,150.06	
	Overseas Fund (Lady Day)	\$1,288.29	
	Parenting Program	\$630.09	
	Arctic Fund	\$938.35	
	Family Life (Mary Sumner House)	\$61.52	
			\$60,985.84

Notes: 1. Sarah Marshall Trust Fund (NCFF) of \$4000 is not included in the above balance.
GIC earns 3% and matures October 17, 2018

Chaplain's Message



“And God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” Genesis 1:31.

When you go from a small community on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia, to north-western Alberta, northern British Columbia, the southern Yukon and the fiord at Skagway, Alaska you see just a very small part of God's creation. You get to experience the beauty and diversity of our country from flat rolling plains to magnificent mountains to a very small glimpse of the sea on both coasts of North America. In Canada, many of us are blessed to be able to enjoy this diversity of geography and share in God's abundance, but as Mothers' Union members, we also know that there are still many regions in our own country and

around the world others are not as fortunate and where our support and prayers are needed.

I spent three weeks this summer traveling in areas of Canada I had not seen before and I am so very thankful to God for being able to take pleasure in all the beauty and richness we are able to enjoy.

*O God, the source of all life,
you fill the earth with beauty;
open our eyes to see your gracious hand in all your works,
that rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness
for the sake of him through whom all things were made
your Son, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

(The Mothers Union Worship Book (c) 1995 The Mothers' Union)

Rev. Marilyn Murphy
Canadian Chaplain

Did you know...?

Reg Bailey, CEO of Mothers' Union and guest speaker at our National Conference in Ottawa in 2012, has been awarded the Order of the British Empire for his work for families and children!

News from the Dioceses

From the Diocese of Fredericton: Mothers' Union Has a Banner Year

This has been a very special year in the lives of Canadian Mothers' Union members as 125 years of active history in the life of the Church were celebrated across the country. At a Diocesan Council meeting held in Hampton in March, Joanne Fitzpatrick (Branch Leader of St. Mary and St. Bartholomew's in Saint John) showed us her design for a commemorative banner her group wished to make to honour this milestone anniversary. The beautiful banner was quilted over a two week period and was dedicated and blessed on April 21 at its home church. It was proudly displayed in the banner parade at the annual Diocesan Rally which was held on April 27 at St. Paul's in Hampton. The theme for the gathering was "The Seeds We Sow Help Us Grow – Celebrating 125 Years of MU Canada".

A highlight of the rally was Elaine Robichaud's presentation of the evolution of MU in this country from 1888 to the present time. Our national banner dates back to the first Diocesan Council formed in 1909 and it is still in use, with plans to retire it back to its origin in the Diocese of Ruperts Land. Branches continued to thrive in Canada during the world wars, but there was a formal split from the Worldwide MU in the late 1960's over the issue of allowing divorced women to join the group, which Canada supported.

The Worldwide Council in 1973 finally unveiled a new vision for MU members in which any baptized Christian could be enrolled as a member and the aim and five objects we still abide by were accepted. Elspeth Newton became President of the re-established Canadian Council with 30 branches still intact.

Between 1973 and the Centennial Conference in 1988 the number of branches increased to 85, with several Diocesan Councils established. National conferences were to be convened every four years and the Diocese of Fredericton held the national chair from 2004 to 2008 with Kathleen Snow installed as President.

Diocese of Fredericton MU branches became active starting in 1980 and our Diocesan Council was formed in 1981, with annual rallies beginning that year as well. Our Diocesan banner was commissioned in 1983 and was dedicated in 1985 by Bishop Harold Nutter. Our current enrolment is 133 members in eleven branches in the Diocese.

The MU branch at Christ Church Cathedral held a Eucharist Service on September 14 to celebrate the 125th anniversary and members from all branches were invited to attend. The key message that Rev. Michael Caines, Diocesan MU Chaplain, shared with us was that trust begins and ends with the Cross and that believing this will guide us on the path that God has chosen for us.

After the service concluded, five members with many years of dedicated service to MU told us of the powerful impact that MU has had in their lives. Ginny McEwen was instrumental in bringing MU to this diocese and has served at all levels including National President in 1992, Alice Kennedy was the first Canadian to serve on the Action and Outreach Committee at Mary Sumner House in the UK, Kathleen Snow is a past National President, Adele Knox is a past Diocesan President and Lilian Ketch, current Diocesan President, was also National Recording Secretary from 2004 to 2008.

The newest initiative of the Mothers' Union in this diocese is the facilitation of the MU parenting course, which is changing lives all over the world. As Kathleen shared with the group when she spoke: think of a flower and how it needs nourishment, water and light to grow. Mothers' Union over the last 125 years has helped us to bloom as we reach out in faith, set examples, uphold one another and mirror God's life. She stressed the need to make sure to keep the joy in the work of the Mothers' Union and to accept that the small impact you make could have consequences far bigger than you could ever imagine. "Christian care for families worldwide", the familiar logo of the Mothers' Union, encourages us all to believe that its God-centred work will carry on for generations to come.

Submitted by Susan Colpitts-Judd, Press Secretary, Diocese of Fredericton MU



Joanne Fitzpatrick at the rally in Hampton with the banner.



Left to right: Kathleen Snow, Lilian Ketch, Adele Knox, Ginny McEwan and Alice Kennedy at the Eucharist Service to celebrate 125 years of Mothers' Union in Canada.

A Fond Farewell to Mama Alice Mokoena

Mama Alice Mokoena returned to South Africa in October, and visited Fredericton to say goodbye to the many friends she had there. A lovely reception was held for those members who were able to drop in on the evening of August 14, 2013. Mama Alice has been a Mothers' Union member for many years and has taught many of us a lot of about what being a Mothers' Union member means, serving God in our service to His people and their families.



At left, Fredericton members with Mama Alice, from L to R:

Bonnie Greenwood

Lillian Ketch

Susan Colpitts-Judd

Karen Balloch-Tremblay

Mama Alice Mokoena

From the Diocese of New Westminster:

St. Cuthbert Branch:

Philip Kenny (Mothers' Union member and Gloria Kenny's son) got married on Sunday May 19, 2013 to Sarah Kryski.

Also the branch put on a Wedding Shower for them at their meeting before the wedding.

Submitted by
Philip A. S. Kenny



Don't forget the Make a Mother's Day campaign, through which you can give gifts that will make a difference to the lives of mothers. There are two new cards for Canada's North, as well! Ask your local contact or email Ethel Nelson at genelson@ns.sympatico.ca for information or to purchase a gift. Perfect for Mothering Sunday, Mothers' Day, or any other occasion!

Diocese of New Westminster (cont'd.):

St. James' Branch:

MOTHERS' UNION EDWARDIAN STRAWBERRY TEA 2013

On Sunday, June 23, 2013, following High Mass, the Mothers' Union put on its Edwardian Strawberry Tea in the Parish Hall of St. James' Church in Vancouver. As it was our second event of this kind we were able to learn from past experience and made sure we didn't run out of sandwiches, whipping cream and coffee. Despite it being called a Tea, coffee was by far the beverage of choice. It all ran very smoothly on the day, thanks to our stalwart team behind the scenes, our expert young helpers who were suitably dressed in black cassocks, white aprons and frilly head pieces or if male, bow ties and waistcoats, and our gallant entertainers. Our organist and choirmaster played some interlude music on the piano; our rector's wife, Ruth, sang three appropriate Edwardian era solos; Sister Mary and I recited silly monologues in suitable dialect made famous by Stanley Holloway, and our young St. James' Music Academy choir members sang a selection of songs very professionally.



From all accounts the audience enjoyed themselves and there was lots of laughter as well as lots of eating. Comments like well-organized, courteous service, well-paced and a nice variety of entertainment were much appreciated. Even more people than last year wore their fancy hats. We presold 83 tickets, sold several more just before the doors opened, and approximately 80 people attended on the day. We made a profit of \$847, of which a third went to the NCFE, a third to the travel fund. This kind of event is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family who don't attend church often or at all. I take credit for eight of my personal friends coming, and some attended Mass, plus four family members, who were probably cringing in embarrassment as Grandma made a spectacle of herself.

Of course all the hard work was done prior to the event. Mary Hamilton and I had arranged to go to Emma Lea Farm on Westham Island to pick strawberries on Thursday but it was the one day in the week when it poured with rain so it was postponed until Friday. We went grocery shopping instead. Mary was unavailable on Friday, so my husband, Eric, gallantly offered to help me pick six ice-cream pails of fruit. We went armed with garden kneelers and boots and returned home with aching backs and caked in mud. The strawberries, however, were magnificent, all plumped up after a day of rain.

On Saturday morning our able-bodied Mothers' Union members assembled at 9:30 in the church kitchen and made the sandwiches, washed and cut up the strawberries, brought in their sponge cakes if they had already baked them, and whipped the cream. In the Hall 25 tables were set up with the church's best embroidered table cloths and china and 25 small flower arrangements were lovingly made. We stopped for necessary sustenance and coffee at 11:30. By 2:00 p.m. we were all ready for the event and somewhat exhausted.

Submitted by Celia Dodds

From the Diocese of Niagara:

The Niagara Diocese held its 12th annual fall retreat at the Crieff Hills center. This year, our theme was "God's Gifts to Us".

Sharyn Hall, our chaplain, developed our services to pull our theme together and her sermon focussed on the many gifts in Jesus Christ. Linda Kelloway and Laurie Kondo acted as workshop leaders.

Our morning was spent reviewing many scripture passages to discuss the wide and varied gifts of many different biblical characters. Our scriptures included passages on Miriam, the Shanammite woman, Bezalel, Lydia, Solomon, Martha and Mary, David, Daniel, Deborah, and Ruth. Of course, our longest and liveliest conversation was around Martha and Mary. It was amazing to see which biblical characters our own members most related to in their own gifts from God.

In the afternoon, we split into 3 revolving groups to discuss the Gifts of MU membership at the branch level, at the Canadian level and at the world wide level. This was a time of great laughter and story-telling that reminded us of the many gifts of our MU membership and the blessings of our prayerful sisterhood.

In the evening, members were able to end their day with a labyrinth walk.

This retreat continues to be a special time for our members to renew our friendships and refresh our spirits. The retreat itself is one of our gifts from God.

Respectfully submitted: Laurie Kondo



Niagara Diocese 12th annual fall retreat at the Crieff Hills center.



From the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island:

Mothers' Union member from North Sydney, Patricia Murray was awarded the Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal for her involvement as an Officer with The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. A special event was hosted in her honor on March 25th at her home parish of St. John The Baptist. We send our heartiest congratulations to Patsy for the recognition she has received for her ongoing involvement with the youth of our community. Congratulations Patsy!!



**Biennial Conference November 7 – 9, 2014
Atlantica Hotel, Halifax, NS**

We hope to see all those eligible to attend at the Biennial Conference this coming November. Watch for more information in the next newsletter and on the website.



A Stole For All Seasons



A definite nod to tradition, our stole began as a traditionally cut stole, complete with embroidered orphreys and a small beaded cross at the neckline.

The rich blue of the braided trim, the lower edge of the vestment, as well as the fringe, are all the same hue as the Mothers' Union logo that is used throughout the world. The grapevine at the neckline and the wheat that surrounds the prominent cross at the lower edges frames the stole reminding us of the Mothers' Union logo, Christian Care for Families.

A white dove symbolizing baptism descends toward a delicate white baptismal gown of knitted lace that is gently blowing in the breeze. These Baptismal symbols are connected by a fine golden line whereon are written the words of the Mothers' Union motto.

Intertwined with these Christian symbols is a bright red rose of Irish crochet to represent the vision of Mary Sumner who organized the first Mothers' Union in 1876. Around this rose grows a vibrant garden of roses mingled with tiny violets that children love to pick as an offering of love for their mothers.

In the midst of this spray of violets is the logo of the Canadian Mothers' Union that took root in 1888. The traditional M and U are intertwined on a blue maple leaf that completes our stole.

Rooted in tradition, but transformed to reflect an ever-changing world, this vestment remains a constant symbol of the Priest's office. Let it remind us that even in this changing world the needs of families do not change in essence and, when firmly rooted in God's love, parent's love, past, present and future, will always stand the test of time. Mothers' Union is a constant united force in its goal to provide Christian care for families worldwide.

All of this comes together as a finished vestment that was created for the Glory of God and in grateful thanksgiving for 125 years of Mothers' Union in Canada.

This beautiful vestment was designed and hand crafted by Daphne Gabriel of Gabriel Designs.





Members from The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island had a chance to bid Mama Alice farewell at the Fall Rally in October, 2013, where she shared some parting words with her fellow Mothers' Union members, and received a blessing.

We also welcomed Susan Naylor, who led an extremely informative session on cyber-bullying, an issue that affects many people, especially teens, through wireless communication and social networking.

From the Editor

The long-awaited newsletter is finally in your hands! I hope you enjoy the news from the branches, information and Conference Update that are included. This issue is a little larger than usual as it covers a longer time span. There are a few reasons for this, one of which was lack of content. At this point I have received enough contributions to complete this issue and start on the next one, but I need lots more for this year's three issues, so please send along all of your news, pictures, and anything else you'd like to see in the newsletter. Suggestions are always welcome!

I have heard from a few people that they were unable to reach me by e-mail. My e-mail address changed in late 2012, so if you are using an older issue you will have the wrong one. **Please send all submissions to me at secourt@bellaliant.net, or by mail to 12 Langley Ave., Dartmouth, NS B2W 2Y6.** I look forward to hearing from you!

The cutoff dates for submissions for this year's Newsletters are:

March 1, 2014

July 1, 2014

October 15, 2014

Elizabeth Court, Newsletter Editor

Conference Coordinator's Update:

Several months ago, I attended a Ministry Conference in beautiful Prince Edward Island.... and even as a Priest, my love for Mothers' Union is never far from my mind. The facilitator's presentation for the weekend was about Spirituality, Vocation, and Mindfulness. As she spoke, and engaged us in dialogue, my mind of course wandered to Mothers' Union...the what, why, and who we are. Her focus was on our faith development, how we need to mentor one another, and to look at our "mentality of abundance." What is it we need to surrender in our lives, in our churches, and what do we need to embrace?

One of the quotes she shared with us was from James Baraz...."Mindfulness is simply being aware of what is happening right now without wishing it were different; enjoying the pleasant without holding on when it changes (which it will); being with the unpleasant without fearing it will always be this way (which it won't)."

I'm sharing this with you, because, yes, we have already begun to plan our next Conference. God through the Holy Spirit in His infinite wisdom has been working through us to provide for you a meaningful, spiritual, and joyful Conference....as He always does.

The date has been set, the venue chosen...mark your calendars, start saving your nickels & dimes (we can't say pennies anymore), and we pray that you will be part of it.

**Your next Canadian Conference will be held in Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
at The Inverary Resort
along the beautiful Bras d'Or Lakes**

June 1-4th, 2016

I can't wait to welcome you to my Island home, Cape Breton.

Your sister in Christ,
Debbie



Debbie Strickland
Conference Coordinator

The Inverary
Resort in Baddeck,
site of the next
Canadian Mothers'
Union National
Conference



Northern Clergy Families Fund Update

From January to September 2013, letters have been written to 7 bishops within the Council of the North: The Yukon, Keewatin, Moosonee, Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and The Arctic. Gifts of \$950.00 have been mailed to 12 individuals, as recommended by the bishops. Those that receive the cheque from the NCCF are always very thankful for this unexpected gift.



Left: The Rev. Ikey Nashaooraitook, holding Isaiah, Elizabeth holding Percy, Marsha and Kyras.



Right: Priscilla and David with three of their girls: baby Victoria, Christine and Diana. Tisha is not in the photo.

With her permission, I would like to introduce you to Elizabeth from Gjoa Haven.

According to www.gjoahaven.net, Gjoa Haven is located about 250 kilometers above the Arctic Circle in the central part of Nunavut. It is home to about 1,100 and growing. Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen, set out to search for the Northwest Passage in the summer of 1903. He stayed in the area for two years doing scientific research. The Inuit people from surrounding camps came to trade with Amundsen and the harbour became known as a haven for Amundsen's ship, the Gjoa or "Gjoa Haven". After Amundsen left, the Inuit people stayed and the community was born. In the 1920's the Hudson Bay Company set up a trading post in Gjoa Haven and the community grew from there.

Elizabeth is a Courtworker for the Kitikmeot Law Centre. She and her husband, the Rev. Ikey Nashaooraitook, have three children. They also have three adopted children and four granddaughters. At the Church of the Messiah in Gjoa Haven, there is a Youth Band with 5 young people who have been playing and singing since they were in their early teens. Band members include, Elizabeth's daughter, Priscilla and her fiancé, David, as well as a nephew and niece. Elizabeth says: "They have beautiful voices and God uses them when they are singing."

When I first heard from Elizabeth via email in early September, she was packing to go camping on the land with her husband and children. There was already an inch or two of snow and it was windy, so they only stayed out for two days. Elizabeth's mother, 87 years old, was also out camping and had to delay her return home due to the high winds.

Here is part of Elizabeth's first email to me after she received the gift from the NCCF.

"I would like to sincerely thank you for the wonderful gift of \$950.00 and Bishop David Parsons for recommending me. It came at the right time. We all struggle with finances at times because our church does not make enough money. I will have you all in my prayers. This is so awesome.

I did not hear about the Mothers' Union until I received the wonderful gift. I am working but we try to make ends meet. At times it is hard because we have some family members that come by to eat and bring stuff home to cook. I was so touched that I prayed immediately for you, the Mothers' Union and Bishop David Parsons."

Summary of Northern Clergy Families Fund Account
(January 1, 2013 to September 28, 2013)

Income:

Donations	\$ 4,911.75
Transfer (from BC)	\$ 5,849.89
Transfer from Canadian Mothers' Union	\$ 2,300.00
<u>Total Income:</u>	<u>\$13,061.64</u>

Expenditures:

Cheques, deposit book, etc. (January,2013)	\$ 157.03
Service charge (\$2.50/mo x 9 months)	\$ 22.50
Stop cheque payment / misc. Service charge	\$ 13.10
NCFF Gifts (11 x \$950.00)	\$ 10450.00
<u>Total Expenditures:</u>	<u>\$ 10,642.63</u>

Balance: (* one cheque \$950.00 outstanding) \$ **2,419.01***

Linda MacLachlan - Northern Clergy Families Fund Co-ordinator



Our **aim** and **purpose** is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of family in its many forms.

Mothers' Union members do this by working towards five **objectives**;

- Promoting and supporting marriage
- Encouraging parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- Maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- Promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- Helping those whose family life has met with adversity

Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name.

Amen