



# Keeping in Touch

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

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

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

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

1 Corinthians Ch 12 verses 12 – 27: *The body is made up of many parts etc.*

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

### **Happy Summer Ladies:**

Time seems to be going very quickly! At least in my Calendar. It seems that Christmas was here, then it was March, and time to visit the ladies in Pacific Mountain Region. What a wonderful group of ladies. They made me very welcome, and their meeting, I would say was quite the success, with Moderator Carman Lansdowne as their speaker. April arrived and I was in Edmonton for the WUC-Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit AGM. They had a number of speakers, and most of them on the environment. What inspiration. In May I visited with the ladies from Newfoundland, both East and West. The travels across the Province from St. John's to both Corner Brooke and Deer Lake, showed me the wonderful scenery we have in our Country. I was like a parcel – I was met by one lady, passed to the next, then dropped off again, and passed on until I reached Deer Lake. I could not say any more that what a wonderful experience to visit the various areas and fit in a visit to our Past President Beulah Haley.

It makes me proud to see all the work that is being done across the country, which is being done, and not just being talked about. I will report lots more in September in Mississauga, after I have visited a few more places. I already have invitations to visit other areas in our UCW family for next year and am looking forward to seeing all the accomplishments from our ladies.

Again, Happy Summer Ladies,

*Barbara Davison:* National UCW President



**Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org) Mission**  
**"Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in Prayer and Action"**

1. World Day of Prayer 2025 is written by the WDP committee of the Cook Island. The Theme is "I Made You Wonderful" based on Psalm 134:14 "I praise you for I am Fearfully and Wonderfully made". There will be information and resources to download on the WICC web site [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org) beginning in November 2024. Artists Tarani and Tevairangi Napa, a mother and daughter duo created the artwork (see photo).

2. Information and resources for FLC (Fellowship Of The Least Coin) and Fridays In Black also available in the WICC web site.

3. WICC is exploring the possibility of partnering with the CCC (Canadian Council of Churches). WICC feels that continuing to function as a 'stand alone' organization is not sustainable beyond 5 years. WICC would operate under the umbrella of CCC.



Blessings: *Win Oyam* (NUCW rep to WICC)



### The Healing Fund - update

**Spring of 2023** the Healing Fund Working Group selected the Regina Native Outreach Ministries, "Mother & Baby Welcome Bag" program. The Regina Native Outreach Ministries gifts Indigenous mothers giving birth at Regina General Hospital with a large, reusable bag containing essential items for their newborn baby and themselves. For the newborns there are diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash cream, baby soap, burp cloths, sleepers, onesies and a handmade blanket (knit, crochet or quilted). For the mothers, there are personal care projects like sanitary napkins, breast pads and a small gift such as socks, lip balm and a candle. Also included in the bag is a traditional medicine pouch contain the four traditional medicines of sage, sweetgrass, tobacco and cedar that has been blessed by Regina Native Outreach Ministries' ordained minister with a smudge and a prayer. These welcome bags also include a greeting card with a message of love, respect and caring to let the new mother know she is not alone on her journey and an explanation of how the new mother may use the medicine pouch to connect with her ancestors. In addition, the welcome bags contain an information card with contacts for spiritual support and access to Elders.

**Spring of 2024** the Healing Fund Working Group selected the Fort McKay Metis Nation Association, "Healing in the Kitchen" program from UCW donations. This project's objectives are specific, measurable goals that outline what we aim to achieve through the implementation of our healing workshops and communal dining experiences. The six objectives are:

1. Increase access to traditional healing practices: our first objective is to provide community members with access to culturally relevant healing modalities rooted in Metis culture and traditions. By offering workshops on herbal medicine, sweat lodge ceremonies, storytelling, and other traditional practices, we aim to increase awareness and utilization of these healing methods within the community.
2. Empower community members to reclaim cultural identity: we seek to empower participants to reclaim their Metis cultural identity and heritage by providing opportunities for hands-on learning and engagement with traditional practices. Through experiential workshops and communal dining experiences, we aim to foster a sense of pride, connection, and belonging among participants.



3. Promote holistic well-being: our project aims to promote holistic well-being by addressing the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual dimensions of health. We will provide workshops that address these dimensions, such as self-care and healthy living, traditional healing from loss, and the medicine wheel and holistic healing, to support participants in achieving balance and wellness in their lives.
4. Facilitate Healing from Intergenerational Trauma: one of our key objectives is to facilitate healing from the intergenerational trauma inflicted by the residential school system. Through culturally relevant healing practices storytelling, and communal support, we aim to create a safe and supportive environment for participants to address and heal from past traumas.
5. Strengthen Community connections and solidarity: we aim to strengthen community connections and solidarity by providing opportunities for communal learning, sharing, and support. Through communal dinner meals and interactive workshops, we seek to foster a sense of belonging and unity within the For McKay Metis Nation community.
6. Evaluate and Improve program effectiveness: finally, we aim to evaluate the effectiveness of our program and make necessary improvements based on participant feedback and outcomes.

List of workshops to be offered throughout the “Healing in the Kitchen” program;  
Herbal Medicine and Plant Healing, Healing Practices Through Storytelling, Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Traditional Jigging and Movement Therapy, Medicine Wheel and Holistic Healing, Traditional Healing from Loss, Self-care and Healthy Living, The Role of Youth in the Community, Art Therapy, and Building Healthy Families.

As of **May 8, 2024**, **\$32,169.02** has been raised.

*Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle*, NUCW Treasurer

## **Mission and Service Update:**

From coast to coast, our partners are helping record numbers of families in need. The generosity of United Church Women through Mission and Service is providing shelter to Canadians without homes, serving nutritious meals to families struggling to make ends meet, offering critical pastoral care in hospitals and schools, and extending life-changing education and job training opportunities.

United Church Women are part of an international network backed by Mission and Service, with partners and ecumenical relationships in countries around the world. These relationships mean that we can help provide support – the support we receive from you – where and when it’s needed most.

The food security initiative, refugee support work, educational programs, and advocacy efforts your gifts fund through Mission and Service aren’t just about food, safety, education, and human rights. In the end – big or small – they are about compassion. And we are grateful for each one. Thank you for helping to build a better world through your faithful support of our shared Mission and Service.

The United Church Women across the whole church are recognized for giving **\$489,389** in 2023.

*The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne*, Moderator, The United Church of Canada

*Sarah Charters*, Executive Officer, Philanthropy



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

### HEAR OUR VOICE

Greetings, Bonjour, Sekoh

1,144 SLEEPS (as of the writing of this message) until our UCW Sisters across Canada and Bermuda gather to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church Women!

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional UCW are excited to host this celebration. As Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary UCW I look forward to meeting many of you in 2027. I am happy to report on some of the preliminary details that have been put in place thus far.

The planning committee members are as follow:

Kim Baird – Chair; Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle – Treasurer/Registrar  
Nancy Desjardins – Tours and Travel Arrangements (arrivals/departures of delegates)  
Charlotte Hoy – Worship and Music; Linda Stronski & Denise Wood - Banners  
Cheryl Sullivan – Audio Visual, Promotion/Advertising, Event Booklet

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: July 19 – 23, 2027**

**Venue:** Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport; 2400 Alert Road

**Theme:** Hear Our Voice

**Scripture:** Proverb 8:1 (Wisdom's Call)

*“Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?”*

Registration forms will be available Fall 2026. Keep an eye out for upcoming information on available grants to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary through the Agatha Kassa and Dorothy Amos funds.

It is our promise to keep everyone informed as we move forward planning a week full of Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

To be added to the info contact list or if you have any questions, we can be reached at [ucw65anniversary@united-church.ca](mailto:ucw65anniversary@united-church.ca).

Blessings, *Kim Baird*, Chair

### **NUCW Alumnae**

In the last issue of Keeping in Touch I invited alumnae members to share memories of their time on the National UCW Executive. Isabel Hewitson, a former President of Toronto Conference, submitted this memory of her time on NUCW with Betty Ward: The recent knowledge of the death of Betty Ward, my friend and faithful member of United Church Women, has reminded me of the influence and the friendship this remarkable woman shared with so many of us. Her hospitality and knowledge have been so much a part of my journey with UCW and especially with NUCW. As President and President Elect for Toronto Conference UCW we were together in Halifax and Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia when the 9/11 Attack in New York happened. Together we travelled back to Toronto thanks to the fact that Donna Sinclair had a rental car and was requested to return to work at the Observer. Bravo to Betty that she was quick to offer our company for the trip! Along with Edith Jenkins from Montreal- Ottawa Conference we travelled across the country in a 2001 Sebring Chrysler Convertible, a red one at that! Imagine the greeting we got as we stopped for gas along the way! What a pleasure to have such good company on our journey. A memory to keep! I also have many memories of Betty and I visiting the nine presbyterials in Toronto Conference at that time. All of this experience I treasure as I reminisce the time that Betty and I spent as part of UCW.



Please share your memories of time spent on the National UCW Executive. Send them to Pat Edmonds – patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com – and they can be featured in a future issue of Keeping in Touch. Thanks to everyone who works to keep me informed of address changes for alumnae members. I know they really appreciate receiving Keeping in Touch via email or snail mail.

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

## Celebrating 100 Years

I had the honour to be invited to the kick-off Worship service of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church, representing the National United Women.

I was asked to take part in the communion as well. It was wonderful to enter this magnificent church among a parade of some fantastic men and women of the church. The service can be seen on YouTube.

Following the service I was invited to a lovely dinner, by Rev. Michael Blair. There were many representing not only the United Church but also from the Korean Church, the Presbyterian Church, Anglican Church, CCI rep., past Moderator, past General Secretary, past NUCW. With dinner we heard from many of the honoured guests and their interesting experiences to some humorous events.

I feel blessed to be part of the United Church of Canada and look forward to many more celebrations of 100 years as the United Church.



*Nancy Risto*

## President-Elect Nomination:

Greetings,

My name is Barbara DeJeet, and I am putting my name forward for the President Elect position on NUCW. My UCW area of EOOR motioned to have my name brought forward and it was carried. Our AGM was held in April.

I have many experiences with UCW. My home church is Christ United in Lyn Ontario. I am President of our UCW and have been for many years. Back when there were conferences, I was President of Bay of Quinte, also participated on the committee for Affirm Ministry for our Conference UCW. I believe at that time we were the first Conference UCW to become Affirm. President of Four Rivers UCW, leadership chair, past president of EOOR UCW, are some of the other positions I have held in UCW. I also have experience in planning weekend retreats. I am also a Licensed Lay Worship leader, Sacramental Elder for my church, and Pastoral Care Coordinator. I believe I have many talents to offer to the position of President Elect and to NUCW. UCW seems to run deep within me. Thank you for considering me and blessings.



*Barbara DeJeet*



## **From Antler River Watershed UCW Middlesex UCW Annual Gathering**

Middlesex UCW Annual Gathering was April 17 at Richards Memorial United Church in southwest London. We started at 9:00 am and ended at noon. The theme was “Shine A Light on London” with our guest speaker Michelle from 519 Pursuit. The registration was \$10.00.

Richards Memorial was very welcoming and had coffee, tea, and muffins to start our morning off in their hall. We then moved to the sanctuary for the rest of the morning.

We were fortunate to have some special guests – Pam Cullen from Limberlost and Southdale Chaplaincies; Jill Hodgins from Camp Kee Mo Kee. We had hoped that Marilyn Mitchell, President of Antler River Watershed UCW would come but she was unable to come. We also had invited Kathy Douglas, Faith Formation Minister from Antler River Watershed Regional Office, to come but she was sick. We also received a note from Barbara Davison, National UCW President, which I read to the ladies.

Mary Dillon from the Resource Centre located at Fairmont United Church had a wonderful book display for all to see. We allowed her a few minutes during the meeting to tell us about the various books that she had brought along that day.

We did the usual business items and then we had Cheryl Partington, treasurer, introduce our guest speaker, Michelle from 519 Pursuit which is an organization helping the homeless in London. It is a wonderful organization that started around COVID. It was two ladies – Angela and Allison that started simple and has grown. Michelle is one of the ladies that has been helped through 519 Pursuit. She is 31 years old, and she started talking about herself and her background. Her mother and her half sibling left her dad as he was a hard-core addict. She has been homeless since she was 18 years old. She has been to the Salvation Army, and she has lived on the street for over 4 years. She met up with Angela in 2018 and she thought of her as an “angel” that saved her. She told us that she had been in detox 27 times. She now volunteers with Allison and Amber at 519 Pursuit. She had a wonderful story to tell, and we were all brought to tears by her story. There is more information on 519 through their website.

We had Rev. Jen Prince do the worship service and communion as well as installation of officers at the end of the meeting.

Everyone loved the fact that we did everything in the morning. It is the first time that we decided to charge a minimum of \$10.00 per person. It was a wonderful, uplifting morning for one and all!

### **Antler River Watershed Annual Gathering**

The Antler River Watershed UCW Annual Gathering was held at Dunwich United Church in Dutton on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 9:00 am to approximately 3:00 pm. The theme for the day was “where There Is Faith, There’s Hope”. Our guest speaker was Rev. Jen Prince and we had Rev. Larry Schneider do the worship and communion.

It is a lovely one floor church building with lots of parking in the back. We were greeted warmly by the ladies of the church with coffee, tea and water and they also served muffins. The cost of registration was



\$40.00 per person which included lunch. The lunch was 2 different soups, variety of sandwiches with pickles. For dessert they had various squares to choose from. It was really nice to be able to sit and chat with various ladies.

We started the day off with a sing song with Anne Griffin at the piano. We then had the usual welcome and the constitute of the meeting by Marilyn Mitchell. It was her home church that we were at. I read a lovely message from our National UCW President, Barbara Davison. We also received greetings from the President of Dunwich UCW. We did the usual business items as well as the finances. We then had Rev. Larry Schneider do a lovely devotion which concluded with the communion service.

Next, we had Laurel Kenney update the ladies on the National UCW Project which is the Healing Fund. Laurel spoke about what her church, First St. Andrew's had done with having a speaker from Oneida come in and speak to the ladies present. After Laurel had finished her presentation, we had Mary Dillon from the Resource Centre at Fairmont in London come and show us the various items she had for sale for us. We were fortunate in that she had a room off to the side to put on the display.

After lunch, we had entertainment from the Dunwich Ukulele Group. They played some well know religious spiritual songs and asked us to sing along if we knew the song. It was truly uplifting. There were about 10 of them in the group.

We then had Mary Dillon introduce our guest speaker, Jen Prince. Her presentation was inter-active. She posed questions and wanted our answers which she posted on a bulletin board. She was truly gifted. Everyone enjoyed her presentation.

We had the invitation from Mary Dillon about the upcoming Summer Event at Siloam United Church in London on July 20 at 10:00 am. We are hoping to have a representative from YOU (Youth Opportunities Unlimited).

We then did nominations as we needed a First Vice President, and we were fortunate to have Mary Dillon nominate herself. Kathy Douglas then did the installation of officers before she had to leave. Next year's Annual Gathering will be April 26, 2025, in Lambton. Location to be decided. It was a wonderful day that everyone seemed to enjoy.

### **Upcoming Events from Antler River Watershed**

- **June 10** – Fun In The Sun at Camp Kee Mo Kee (Middlesex UCW)
- **July 20** – Summer Event at Siloam United Church, London – Registration and Information are going out May 24 to all area presidents and will be on the Antler River Watershed website.
- **September 11** – Executive Meeting for Middlesex UCW at Melville United Church
- **September 30** – Executive Meeting for Antler River Watershed Executive UCW at Richards Memorial United Church at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, *Linda Britton* - Treasurer Antler River Watershed UCW



## From Horseshoe Falls Region UCW

These pictures/notes are from St Andrew's UCW unit in Brantford, Horseshoe Falls Region.

We have had a successful 4 months with donations made to worthy organizations like our national Healing Fund, an increase in attending membership, 23 & counting, & a Joie de Vivre that continues to blossom.



← In January we held our Annual Meeting. We are back at the church, established our executive, set up a plan, FUN: FOOD: FACTS. Onward!

→ In February Packaging baby supplies for Margot's Place, a supportive program for young moms in Brantford.



*Janet Sharp & Jo-Anne Dickson*



→ In March we painted. We plan to do this again.

← Demonstrating our age span, Rev. Gabby Heindinger, Doreen Pate

In April we shared treasures and ATE (as always). Bev was not quick enough to capture all of the cake!! Lol

*Heather Battenham & Kathryn Millward*

The cake.



← Our address is St Andrew's United Church, 95 Darling St, Brantford, ON N3T 2K7

President Bev Osborn [osb484@rogers.com](mailto:osb484@rogers.com) : Past President Stephanie Robinson: First Vice President Mary Jo Brock: Treasurer Judy Ritchie: Recording Secretary responsibility shared by several ladies: Cards Janet Sharp: Member at Large Sheila Meens.



*Martha Cookson*

Respectfully submitted by *Sheila Meens* [artnsheila@hotmail.com](mailto:artnsheila@hotmail.com).





## News from the Maritime UCW

### Maritime Annual Meeting

April 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2024



65 UCW and guests gathered in Antigonish, NS for this year's Maritime UCW Annual meeting hosted by the welcoming ladies of the St. James United Church UCW. Our theme this year was "Pass on Beauty" facilitated by Rev. Janice MacLean of Prayer Bench Ministry. We worshiped, we remembered, we prayed, we sang, we laughed, we ate, well we even square danced as we joined for a time of fellowship and fun.

We were very pleased to have our Executive Minister Regions East, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, and the incoming chairs of both Regional Councils, Rev. Donna Tourneur (Bermuda-NS), and Sue LeMaistre (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters) as guest speakers as well as a past National UCW President and author Betty Radford Turcott. Members of the Chignecto District lead us a very meaningful memorial service followed by a communion service lead by Rev. Faith March-MacCuish.



In addition to the regular business meeting, we welcomed to our executive by installation a new President, Betty Ann Watts, Social Secretary Michèle Ashby, and an MUCW representative to Bermuda-NS Regional Council Executive, Ann Piper. Our next Maritime UCW gathering will be July 31<sup>st</sup> under the hemlocks at Berwick UCW Day as we meet our Moderator and welcome our new Maritime President.

(Photos submitted by Debbie Hawkins)



Left to Right: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish (Tri-Regional Executive Minister), Betty Ann Watts (President Maritime UCW), Rev. Donna Tourneur (Incoming Chair Bermuda-NS Regional Council) and Sue LeMaistre (Incoming Chair Fundy St. Lawrence Regional Council)

Submitted by *Past Co-Presidents*

*Marilyn and Debbie*



Betty Turcott attended the MUCW Annual Meeting weekend, travelling to the Maritimes via rail, with copies of her recent book, *Rebekah, The Valley of Hope* (Women of the Bible, Book 2).

It was a delight to have her visit with us and share her stories as a writer of several books based on the lives of women of the bible.

*Sarah, Circle of Stones* was her first book in this series. Being published is her story of sisters, Leah and Rachel.

And, the fourth book, which was a promise she made to herself, to write four books in the series, when asked who it will be, she answered, "I don't know, she hasn't come to me yet." It was suggested at the gathering that Mary Magdalene might be a good subject for her next undertaking.

(Photo credit, Laura Whitmee, written by Jean Smith, Chignecto District, Maritime UCW)



## Shining Waters Region UCW Report

Shining Waters Region UCW Annual Meeting was held May 6th at Burton Ave, United Church in Barrie, an ideal accessible venue with lots of parking, friendly, accommodating hosts and good food. Fifty-eight women registered. Diane Aikman played her guitar and lead the singing throughout the day. The theme was "To Live With Respect in Creation". The guest speaker, Esther Collier, spoke about the 2015 Paris Agreement to decrease emissions by 80% by 2030 and was concerned that this agreement was not being adhered to.

Using the Personal Climate Action Planning Guide, we broke into small groups to discuss how to change our current habits in small ways in order to decrease our energy usage. Our ideas were shared with the larger group. Esther pointed out that the UCW have considerable influence and encouraged us to talk about energy conservation and stir things up in our churches, workplaces, and communities.

We were pleased to present 60th Anniversary Leadership Awards to the following women: Susan Storrington from Collier Street United Church, Susan Williams from Virginia United Church, Nancy Rowe from St. Andrew's United Church, Markham and Helen Bishop from Trinity United Church, Newmarket. The recipients were congratulated and thanked for their many years of service and dedication to UCW.

Mike Levinsky, new director of Camp Big Canoe, was introduced and presented with more than a carful of craft supplies and other materials for the camp. He expressed his appreciation for the generosity and support of the UCW.

The Executive for 2024-25 was installed by Joyce MacKinnon, Past President of the National UCW. The Shining Waters Region UCW president's stole, made by Barbara Hendren, was displayed and worn by June Blanchette, current president.

Plans are underway for the Annual Togetherness Day to be held in Barrie on October 2nd.

Submitted by *Pat Edmonds*



## Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women's Report

Sask. UCCW hosted a one-day Women's Gathering at St. David's Trinity United Church in Saskatoon on April 27. The theme for the day was "Growing Spiritually". Our AGM was included in the day's events.

Our special guests were the Very Rev. Jordan Cantwell, Past Moderator of the United Church of Canada and now Growth Animator for our Region and Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, National UCW Treasurer.



The day began with worship written and led by the Very Rev. Jordan Cantwell. Pianist was Betty Ann Arcscott. Jordan asked us to remember three things: Practise deep spirituality, lead in brave discipleship and go forward in action. In praying to God we should ask Him to "put us where you want us; show us what you want us to do".

Memorial Service and Candle Lighting was conducted by Mary Mohn and Allison Irvine. Jordan and Phyllis Robinson led the communion service. Communion was served by the Very Rev. Jordan Cantwell, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Phyllis Robinson, and Anne Mathewson.

We transitioned into the AGM with singing.

Minutes of the last AGM, all financial reports including the budget and all other reports had been e-mailed to all those who registered. The executive was elected by acclamation. Co-chairs are Allison Irvine and Diane Thurlow; First Vice Chair is Debz Ferber; Secretary is Barb Byers Bradley; Treasurer is Phyllis Robinson. Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle installed the executive. Minutes of the last meeting, the financial statement and budget were passed as well as the reports from the Co-chairs and Bursary Fund.

We had time for a short sing-along of camp songs before lunch.

As we lined up for the delicious lunch served by St. David's Trinity Hospitality Group some took part in the silent auction and book sale. Those in attendance were asked to donate an individual or group item for the silent auction.

After lunch Bev Irvine gave a short talk on the books that were available for sale. Then Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, our special guest speaker was introduced. She brought greetings from the National UCW President, Barbara Davison and also spoke about the Healing Fund, the UCW Endowment Fund and the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UCW scheduled for July 19 to 23, 2027 in Ottawa.

As part of her talk on GROWING SPIRITUALLY Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle gave specific examples of her personal spiritual growth with God. She then asked those in attendance to take part in a question and



answer exercise telling about our spiritual growth with God. She collected the anonymous sticky notes with our answers and e-mailed back the results after she got home. In conclusion Carolle said, theologian Rob Fennel said “Maybe we don’t need a definition of spirituality. We can just do it, or be it, or live it.” Outgoing co-chair Dawn Weber thanked Carolle for sharing her time and thoughts. Then it was coffee time, book sale visits and silent auction final bids. Circle and Closing Prayer led by Dawn Weber was a fitting way to end the day. Gift plants were available to take home thanks to Barb Byers Bradley.

At the first executive meeting in June Eleanor Bowie was appointed Second Vice so we now have a full executive.

Report by *Mary Mohr*, Sask. UCCW

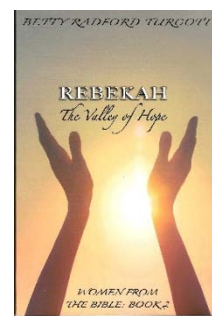


## East Central Ontario UCW

### “An Evening with Rebekah” held by East Central Ontario Region UCW

On February 21, Betty Radford Turcott joined us in an online sharing circle for her latest novel, *Rebekah: The Valley of Hope*. Among the 37 registered were women from East Central Ontario Region UCW, our neighbouring EOR, Maritimes and Pacific Regions and three from Florida. We met by Zoom supported by Karen Wilson (ECORC communications staff) and UCW volunteers who created discussion ideas, led breakout rooms and shared a map of the novel’s setting.

Betty shared thoughts about Rebekah’s Old Testament life journey and her own writing experience. We shared our reading experience and thoughts about the family relationships in the novel. The evening ending with “Questions for Betty.”



In the words of one participant: “I much enjoyed, was enlightened and felt so nourished by this time together.” And another: “This time today with Betty was a great gift.”

Discussion ideas for *Rebekah*, created by the planning group, are available from Cheryl Mound [cdmound@gmail.com](mailto:cdmound@gmail.com)

Submitted by *Cheryl Mound*, President, East Central Ontario Region UCW

### *Coming Soon: Then Let Us Sing!*



The release of *Then Let Us Sing!* — the United Church’s new digital music resource—is getting closer. Final selection of the new hymns and songs has been made, final engraving is in process, and the website and platform is almost ready.

*Then Let Us SING!* will be The United Church of Canada’s most current—and future-focused—source of music for congregational singing and worship planning. Release date is scheduled for this fall as part of the celebrations for The United Church of Canada’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The project’s Material Creation group has been very busy over these last four years:

- receiving over 1,500 submissions from composers and text writers from across Canada and internationally along with 1,000+ songs and hymns from published sources
- creating a Sampler of about 25 pieces for review by 200 communities of faith (including some UCW groups) in the fall of 2023 and reviewing the feedback
- selecting the final 150+ hymns and songs for the final collection



### What are you going to see?

New hymns and songs that use fresh language for God and accessible musical styles; hymns and songs that lift up previously underrepresented racialized, Indigenous, francophone, and LGBTQQITTPA+ and Two Spirit people, as well as people with disabilities, and people of diverse linguistic communities.

The digital platform will include almost all the hymns that we love in *Voices United*, *More Voices*, and our French hymnal *Nos Voix Unis*, plus the previously unpublished Korean United Church collection.

Digitization will provide a lot of versatility for communities of faith: through an agreement with OneLicense.net, communities of faith who subscribe to *Then Let Us SING!* will have *all permissions* for legally copying, printing, projecting, and streaming. The digital nature also means that in the future, more music will be added. For those who prefer to have a book, a hard copy booklet of the new hymns is also planned for 2025.

And there's more. A team co-ordinated by Rev. Phil Wilson has interpreted nearly 20 hymns into American Sign Language (ASL) and langue des signes québécoise (LSQ). These videos will be part of our witness to the wider church and will be made available online.

Workshops and training sessions to introduce *Then Let Us SING!* are being planned for this fall to introduce the music across the country. Keep an eye open for information about events in your area.

For more information on the project, visit the webpage [www.thenletussing.ca](http://www.thenletussing.ca) and subscribe to the newsletter so you can receive updates. You can also visit (and like!) our Facebook page.

If anyone knows if these 'Seasons of the Spirit' pins are available and where, please contact Pat - [patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com)



**Deadline for submission for our November 'Keeping in Touch' issue is October 15, 2024**



What is happening in your Region, your Area, and your local UCW Unit?  
Want to write or edit, or create and do layouts for our digital newsletter?

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

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

Editor reserves the right to modify submissions as needed

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