Maritime UCW News

June 2022

Maritime United Church Women
Co-Presidents Report

This will be our first-time reporting to the Newsletter as Co-Presidents. When we were installed as 2nd Co-Vice Presidents in April 2018 at the Biennial meeting in Summerside we could never have predicted the challenges that our UCW Units and our Community of Faiths would face over these past four years. In addition to having to navigate where we fit into the new regional structure of the United Church, we have had to do so in a world-wide pandemic that shut down our churches. Well, here we are four years later, still trying to sort out "Do we meet via Zoom or is it safe and comfortable to meet in person?" In any event, our Mission still remains to provide leadership and support to our UCW units throughout our Maritime regions and to "Unite the women of the church", that remains our biggest challenge!

As Covid restrictions throughout the Maritime provinces and Bermuda had yet to be fully lifted, our Biennial meeting that had been planned in Riverview, NB was postponed from April of 2020, and held April 21-22, 2022, over zoom. The theme "My Love Colors Outside the Lines" was reflected in the worship, music, prayers and our presentation by Adele Halliday on anti-racism. In addition to the business meeting, a memorial service was held in memory of all UCW members across our region lost since 2018 with members remembered by name. Our National president Nancy Risto brought greetings and joined us for the "Service of Dedication and Installation". Minutes to this meeting will be available online at https://ucceast.ca/maritime-ucw-minutes and we encourage those of you who were unable to attend to read through the minutes.

One of the motions that was passed was to go to from a Biennial meeting to an Annual meeting format alternating the necessary business with a more "spirit filled" gathering. We have also, as an executive, taken on the responsibility of planning the annual meetings. Another important motion was the approval of a restructuring of our boundaries going from 15 districts to 11. It is hoped that this change will improve our communication for those districts that did not have an executive or a contact person.

Our first actions as newly installed co-presidents was to acknowledge the work and dedication of our past president and outgoing president. A lifetime membership pin and certificate were presented to Ruth Kennedy. A certificate was presented to Elaine Burrows and a donation was made to the Mission and Service fund in recognition of her service. On behalf of the membership, we thank these ladies for their leadership during their term as President and are grateful for their guidance and support as we continue in their footsteps. We also acknowledge and thank the ad hock committees and Ruth for all her leadership and efforts to update the Maritime UCW Guidelines, The Guidelines for hosting Annual Meetings and the Guidelines for Berwick Cookie Cottage. These are important documents and will guide our work going forward.

Zoom has certainly proven to be a less appealing way for our Maritime membership to meet as we saw a sharp decline in attendance with only 33 signed on to the Biennial meeting as compared to the 148 that attended the last in person gathering in Summerside in 2018. This may be a reflection of the hesitancy of our membership with the online technology, that information is not getting shared, or that units are struggling. Some of the responses we had

through email has been that with an aging membership our ladies are just tired, and some units are even looking at disbanding. This will be one of our biggest challenges going forward. As we continue to finalize our online registration list for the 60th Anniversary Celebrations, it is concerning of the low numbers of registrations we have received from our Maritime membership. To date, other than those on the committee or providing leadership, we have 44 Maritime members registered, 41 coming from Region 15 and 3 from FSLDW. Considering the ease in travel, that Maritime is hosting the event, and this is the first time the anniversary celebration has been held this far East, this is certainly a concern.

We thank Elaine Burrows, Past President, for arranging the *Prayerbench Presentation* for the ladies of the Maritime UCW. On May 16th, via Zoom, thirty plus ladies joined Rev. Janice MacLean for an excellent inspirational look at **Continuing In Hope,** the theme of our 60th Anniversary Celebration.

We would like to thank Ruth Kennedy and our co-members of the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee for the countless hours they have been working to ensure that ALL the endless details of the event are tended to. Never did we ever imagine four plus years ago when we took the job on, that we would be doing it on the heels of a global pandemic. It has been a challenge indeed of which we would be sinking in quicksand if it were not for the leadership of our chair, Ruth Kennedy.

In closing, we are pleased to report that on behalf of Maritime UCW a donation was made to the Mission and Service Fund and cards of congratulations were sent to Rev. Richard Gunn and Rev. April Hart, both of Region 15, who were newly ordained on May 29th .

Blessings to all,
Debbie Hawkins
Marilyn Bubar
Co-Presidents Maritime UCW

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INTRODUCTION TO NEW CO-PRESIDENTS MARITIME UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Greetings from Marilyn Bubar and Debbie Hawkins, your new co-presidents of Maritime United Church Women. We are a mother/daughter team and are dedicated members of the Keswick Ridge United Church in Keswick Ridge, NB. We have served in many capacities within our congregation as Session Members, Stewards, Sunday School Teachers, Youth Group Leaders, C. E. Committee members as well as presently being active in our own UCW with twelve other ladies. Marilyn also served as Treasurer of Keswick Ridge United for ten years and was able to utilize her skills in Accounting even after her retirement in 2016 from many years in that field. It has been our privilege to be members of the Maritime Executive since 2018 and to be part of the planning committee for the upcoming 60th Anniversary Celebrations which are less than a month away. We do hope to meet many of you there as well as ladies from across Canada and Bermuda.

We have had the great pleasure and opportunity of attending two previous anniversaries, the Hamilton, Ontario 50th and the 55th in Vancouver, BC. These were wonderful events and we returned from them with a renewed sense of purpose for our own UCW and a reinforcement of the importance of it to the life and spirit of the Congregation of which it is a part. For those planning to attend the 60th Celebrations in Sydney next month, may you receive encouragement as you work within your own group.

Just a few words about us as individuals.

Marilyn is a Charter Member and was at the meeting of the "Upper Keswick Ladies Aid" back in 1962 when it officially became the "Upper Keswick United Church Women". She was then a young bride of two years with a little one at home..the UCW became her "night out"

as she accompanied her mother-in-law to the monthly meetings. This group of ladies continued on until the mid-eighties when they joined with the Keswick Ridge UCW after the closure of the little church in Upper Keswick. She has remained active in this group over these years and is presently serving as President. She enjoys gardening, sewing and especially visiting with her grandchildren (8) and families and with her great grandchildren (4) soon to be (5). Oh yes, she is also a bird watcher and enjoys many species in her own back yard each day and she and her husband still enjoy a few camping trips each summer around the Maritimes.

Debbie's first memories of UCW was on the apron strings of her mother decades before she officially "joined" UCW. "I remember the little church in Upper Keswick and meeting in ladies' homes during the winter months and how I would negotiate to be able go too, promising to "be good", to sit quietly and not interrupt or talk too much. Oh, how I would love these nights out with my mother and thought myself special to be with all these ladies. Through the 80's into my late teens I often joined in anything the UCW ladies were doing from bazaars to Strawberry Teas. I was so touched when the ladies had a bridal shower for me when I got married. As my family grew and my time focused on raising a busy family, juggling both a nursing career and a family business, but all the while, I knew the UCW would be there waiting for me". Debbie officially became a member of UCW in 2015 and this year she received her grandmother's life membership pin on a transfer". She shares her Mom's love of gardening, sewing and bird watching as well as fly-fishing with her husband (when she gets the time). Her greatest passion is spending time with friends and family and helping her three grandchildren grow.

Now, as we endeavour to continue on in the footsteps of the many who have gone before us in this role, we realize that we certainly have our work cut out for us. We wish to thank Past President, Elaine Burrows for her leadership since the fall of 2020. Elaine never got to preside over a meeting in person because we were in the Covid 19 Pandemic during her entire term; She was installed via Zoom, as we were at the Annual Meeting in April, 2022. Our first scheduled "in person" Executive meeting was scheduled for this past Monday, June 6th and again, guess what, moved to a Zoom meeting because a member was down with Covid! Oh, it is a time when we really must "Continue in Hope"; otherwise what would there be to keep us motivated. BUT, we are United Church Women and we WILL continue to do what we can in this role.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

Every unit in the Maritimes needs to send in statistics each year.
We need the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of your unit executive
How many members you have at the end of December 2021
The names of those who passed in 2021
The names of those who were awarded lifetime memberships in 2021

If you have sent your statistics...Thank You. If your statistics have not been sent in please e-mail the information to: Ruth Kennedy ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

MUCW is hosting another gathering via video conferencing (ZOOM) with Janice MacLean from Prayer Bench ministries. The topic will be announced at a later date.
Mark November 14th at 1 p.m. in your calendar.
If you want to participate you must register. There only 100 spots available.
To get your name on the list, e-mail Ruth Kennedy ulvashepherd@hotmail.com

4th Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Annual Meeting

"Reimagine Joy" June 3-4, 2022 An Affirming Region

The executive of the FSLDW regional executive met at 9 a.m. on May 27th to discuss the financial statement and budget prior to the annual meeting.

Prior to the annual meeting, there was a lunch and learn webinar at noon on Wednesday May 25th to go over voting procedures, etc. On May 31, at 7 p.m. there was a regional webinar to discuss the financial statement and the budget for 2022-2023. The third FLSDW regional webinar was held on Thursday June 2 beginning at 7 p.m. to hear the reports of the committees of the regional council. They are all available to read on the regional website under annual meeting 2022.

The 3rd virtual annual meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters began via Zoom on Friday evening with the call to order, acknowledgement of place, welcome, constitution of the meeting, and the opening worship. There was a service of remembrance for ministers who died over the past year. The equity support team reminded us of the six questions to self-monitor for equity during the meeting. Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson, minister of vocation for Region East introduced us to the candidates for ministry in this region. We had a chance to check-in with break-out group time. We were introduced to the General Council Representative – Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball. Our theme speaker Ralph Milton is a great story teller who told us some tales. He has a new book out called "*Well-Aged*". He spoke of the value of older seniors within our churches. The equity team reported back, and then we heard from those who had been ordained 50 and 60 years and heard some of their interesting ministry stories over all those decades.

The meeting continued on Saturday June 4 at 10 a.m. The opening worship celebrated that the region is now an affirming region (since September 2021) The equity support team reminded us of the six questions that we need to self-monitor for. Rev. Faith March-MacCuish gave her remarks followed by the 2021 audited statements and the 2023 budget which both passed. The General Secretary of GC. Rev. Michael Blair provided a pre-recorded report. Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson was introduced as the President-Elect and the General Council representative, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball gave a brief talk. We are to think **Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.** You will hearing more about this as the year progresses. Rev. Dr. Shepherd Munikwa was introduced as the Justice, Mission and Outreach Minister for the three eastern regions. He very recently moved to NB from Ontario. We were introduced to a new book coming out in June: **Building God's Beloved Community.**

After lunch, Ralph Milton spoke again of the stories from the Bible which were told orally long before they were written down. We were in break out groups to give a chance to discuss two questions presented to us. There were short presentations on Guaranteed Livable Income, the UCRD bookstore in Toronto, the bookstore in NL, the pastoral relations Equity Research Project. Messages were sent from our ecumenical guests which can be read on the website. Atlantic School of Theology informed us of some of the new programming that they are doing. The annual meeting planning committee reported their findings -- lots of different answers. We were divided into groups to discuss further our feelings about how we meet. The **Then Let Us Sing** Development Team spoke. **The Gathering** will be on-line as well as having a paper copy. The **Then Let Us Sing** material will be ready for 2024 so that there will be time to learn new music for the 100th anniversary of the UCC. The Climate Justice Working group reported. The meeting ended with worship and the Rev. James D. Kennedy being installed as the president of FSLDW.

Elaine Burrows, MUCW rep.
FLSDW executive.

Prince Edward Island United Church Women

June 2022

Thank you PEI UCW members for contributing the statistics needed for the National UCW. In 2021 there were 38 units on 21 pastoral charges/communities of faith with 357 members. One life membership was given out. 22 deceased members were reported.

From the grapevine, I heard that Alberton -Elmsdale Pastoral Charge and Trinity-Clifton Community of Faith in Charlottetown both celebrated the 60th anniversary of UCW by leading church services on May 15th. Trinity UCW, Summerside will be having their 60th anniversary service on July 3rd.

Hillcrest United Church Women members have been busy with a take-out lunch in April, a plant/bake/yard sale on May 21st and are planning a lobster take-out meal in June.

Trinity UCW in Summerside celebrated and honoured UCW members and friends who have helped us with events with a 60th anniversary event.. 40 UCW members and friends sat down to a meal at noon on May 31st.

There is still over half the year left, so get busy and plan something special for the 60th anniversary of UCW. There are four UCW anniversary services on the ucceast.ca website. Look for UCW under Ministries and keep scrolling until you find UCW services.

Mark **Saturday October 15th** on your calendar. Trinity UCW, Summerside is booked for a PEI UCW gathering on that day. Plans are in the works – there will be a charge for morning snacks and a light lunch + honorariums for those who help out that day. (screen person, etc.) There will be pre -registration as before so we can plan for food amounts. We will send out information in late August so that you have it for your September meeting.

Thank you to Joyce Bridges who maintains the massive PEI UCW email list, and who gets information out to members on a timely basis.

Elaine Burrows
PEI UCW rep on MUCW
Past-President of MUCW
902 436 1443

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NORTHWEST NB UCW District

Oh my, it really is wonderful to send this report along on this beautiful spring day. It is like a renewing of the soul and spirit when I look out my window, walk through my garden or simply admire the various hues of color in the trees as I drive along the highway. I do hope you are finding this true as well.

News from this District has been coming to me in spurts over the past three months, some of it encouraging and some of it saddens me. First of all, I know that some groups have utilized at least one of the Worship Services the 60th Anniversary Committee has offered in celebration of this special year in the life of the UCW. I also know that a special lady, Winnie Bates, was honored during a recent church service in Nashwaaksis. Winnie has been a vibrant part of UCW over many years in the Fredericton and formally Woolastook area and has organized and participated in many Spring Rallies and other events. It is wonderful to see her paid tribute to.

So, my advice to you as UCW members in your own Communities of Faith, suggest to your minister that you have a special Anniversary Service to celebrate the past 60 years of this wonderful organization called the United Church Women. Remember, there are three available for you to choose from that have been prepared by the 60th Anniversary Committee for that purpose. Your church life has benefited in so many ways over the years by you ladies, and whether they know it or not, they still need you (us)! May the years ahead give us the insight into how to include the new/younger ladies of our congregations so they also may receive the blessings we have received as we work

together over the years.
The news that saddened me was to learn that the Nackawic UCW has made the decision to disband as a UCW group. I am sure this decision did not come easily and they do have my prayers in their future decisions as the ladies of that Charge.
On the bright side, it was encouraging to see a few ladies from Northwest NB District on the special presentation with Rev. Janice MacLean from the *Prayer Bench Ministries* on May 16th. She centered around our Anniversary Theme, *Continuing In Hope,* as she took us through the stories of Tabitha, Lydia and the Slave Girl who are mentioned in the Bible in Acts 9 and 16. She related to us how their lives and actions exhibited hope in practical, hospitable and lasting ways……truly good insight into why we, as UCW women ``continue to do what we do`` even under the adverse circumstances over the past two plus years. BRAVO LADIES!!
The Maritime Biennial meeting was also held over Zoom and again, we did have a few ladies join from our District. I will not go into much detail re the business of this meeting, but it is important that I mention the changes in the boundaries of the Maritime UCW that directly affect our District. The Northwest NB District will now have the addition of St. Croix and Saint John Districts. More about this in the future.
The Miramichi District has decided to change their structure. They will no longer have a president/vice president/secretary etc. They are just planning to have a committee to organize one meeting per year as a fellowship gathering and memorial service. Diane Ellis will remain on as the person who receives information but will discontinue doing reports to Maritime. As stated in the email, "we don't feel it's disbanding, but changing our policies and how we meet". They will still gather statistics and report once a year. Blessings to you as you travel this new route.
In closing, I will mention that my own group here at Keswick Ridge United has just finished another Virtual Plant Sale with good success.
Blessings to all, Marilyn Bubar,
Contact, Northwest NB

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St Croix Charge

From St Croix Charge we had an Executive meeting to plan the Annual meeting but I had to postpone it due to family commitments. Some Units have started have face to face meetings again.

There have been yard sales and funeral receptions to do. Everyone is glad to be back socializing again. Some units have got together and gone out to eat for their year end.

Hoping things will continual and able to start making plans for the future.

Blessing Carol Mehan

St. Croix Charge

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Chignecto Area Report June, 2022

Executive of Chignecto is scheduled to meet on June 28th to make some plans for the fall. This will be an in-person gathering which will provide an opportunity to share news and friendships. There have been no meetings of this group although some groups have been meeting this past year.
Some UCW groups have closed as well during the pandemic.
At Visions, we began meeting in April.

Anna Peters

St Pauls UCW

The ladies of the UCW at St. Paul's United Church in Fredericton conducted the 10:30 AM morning Church Service on Sunday June 5th. Rev. Michelle Armstrong had an opportunity to attend Conference so we celebrated our 60th Anniversary Service a little early. It was Pentecost Sunday so the Church was decorated in bright reds, yellows, and oranges. There was a lovely ribbon mobile with white doves gently moving to the sway of the wind created by the ceiling fans. The UCW ladies were asked to wear hats! President Donna Chauvin led the Service. Candle lighting by Tammy Coughlan, Cathy Davis did the Time For All Ages (Children's time), Jane Banks read the scripture, Ann Raper (our Women's Interchurch Council Rep) explained the meaning of the Prayer of the Least Coin and we recited it together. Carole Peacock led the Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer. Acknowledgment was given to Marilyn Bubar, Rev. Alice Finnamore, Ruth Kennedy, and Betty Turcotte for permission to use their written words in the sample service previously provided. The Service can be viewed on "Youtube". I hope other groups have the same opportunity to celebrate! Donna Chauvin (I have attached some photos. Our oldest member present, Annie Simpson is over 100 years young!)
- Donna Chauvin
President

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Sydney District UCW

Sydney District UCW met on June 4th. 2022 for the first time since the fall of 2019. The first thing on our agenda was seeking out a new president and vice-president. Sharon Black was appointed to search out the new executive posts. Next we discussed how best to proceed in returning to meeting and it was decided to hold a gathering in Sept. to celebrate 60 years of UCW. We will send out invitations to all our units, as well as issuing an invitation to the Inverness- Guysgorough to join our celebrations. Our next meeting will be Aug. 27th to plan this gathering. We are all looking forward to meeting once again.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diana MacLean, Past President

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News from Wilmot (Fredericton) UCW

Although the year was interrupted during our winter months, we have met regularly most of the year. We held our regular rummage sales in the Fall and Spring, using many precautions to keep both workers and shoppers safe. Also our Apple Pie day became two days as we limited the numbers in the kitchen. It seems we had great support for all our events, both by donations and purchases! And also with our other fundraisers, the Foodless Food Sale, and the Bake and New-to-You Sale. We have also catered three funeral receptions. Nine of our members participated in the UCW Spiritual Morning with Janice MacLean "Continuing in Hope" on May 16 by Zoom.
We have kept in touch with many members of our wider community though notes and cards, Christmas remembrances and meals for those needing special help.
We just had our closing dinner catered by another United Church, a postponement from 2020. I think everyone made a special effort to attend and we were so glad to be able to celebrate being together. A joyous occasion!
We still wear masks inside and always serve food to participants. And these precautions have been successful so far!

Submitted on behalf of Wilmot UC
Gillian Keyser

6 Verses to Help You Rest This Summer

Julie June 01, 2020

Hammock ? Check Lemonade ? Check A good book? Check An afternoon all to yourself ? Check Mix those four ingredients together and you have a recipe for a perfect summer afternoon. So why can't you relax? Why is your mind racing a mile a minute, as usual? What seems to be missing? There is one more secret ingredient needed for this dish and it is often overlooked - a spirit at peace.

For many of us, pushing the pause button is easier said than done, even during the summer months when life should slow down a little, giving us a chance to catch our breath and relax. But just as physical rest is necessary for a healthy body, spiritual rest is important for our spiritual well-being. And the best way to rest your spirit is to rest in the One who created you. The notion of resting is a theme woven throughout scripture beginning...well, at the very beginning.....

"On the seventh God had finished His work of creation, so He rested from all His work" Genesis 2:2 NLT

Even God took a day after creating the world and it's a lesson He intends for us to follow. Here are six verses you can focus on this summer - verses to remind you to rest in God and lean into Him so you can fully enjoy the season.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. Psalm 23: 1 - 2 NLT

In God, we have all that we need. No matter what. He knows the "green meadows" and "peaceful streams" that will restore and renew each of us. And He promises to deliver. When we walk with Him, we can count on Him for complete rest and restoration.

"It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat: for God gives rest to His loved ones." Psalm 127: 2 NLT

Even with the best of intentions, we can easily slip back into the habit of counting on ourselves to meet our needs. We honor God with our work but not when it serves as a cover for our inability to trust in Him. Trusting in Him, while working and resting, is the key to renewal and refreshment.

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life..... your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to it." Matthew 6: 25-34 NKJV

In this passage, Jesus makes it clear that worrying about the future is a waste of time. Instead, He reminds us that our heavenly Father values us above all else and He will care for us just as He does the flowers of the fields and the birds of the air.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest four your souls." Matthew 11: 28-29 NIV

Responsibilities can be overwhelming but Jesus promises to help carry the load. And His shoulders are much bigger than ours! While He doesn't promise a life without hard work and trials, He does promise to be our partner, participating with us and walking with us every step of the way.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4: 6-7 NASB

In this passage, Paul provides some great advice - he suggests we turn our worries into prayers. When we stop worrying and start praying we will be filled with the complete peace and rest that only God can provide.

"I have told you these things so that, in Me, you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16: 33 NIV

The next time a restless spirit threatens to ruin a perfect summer day, stop and remind yourself that, in Jesus, the victory has already been won! God is in control, our destiny as believers is set, and things won't fall apart when we pause to enjoy the beauty of the world around us.

Looking for tools to help you rest in His arms this season? Maybe set some time aside to journal every morning to relax, meditate and focus on God and His Word. Ever thought of Bible journaling? Take some time to soak in His presence before bed every night with a 30 - minute unwind session using Bible journaling supplies. Also, be sure to send your loved ones a Summertime Ecard to remind them to praise God for his beautiful creation during these sure-to-be glorious summer months.

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† † † *In Memoriam for Our Friends of UCW* † † †

United Church Women have chosen a role. They have chosen to belong. They have banded together and they have bonded. They have worked shoulder to shoulder to keep the church's history and purpose alive. These women have shared their faith and their common purpose. We knew them well. We knew their concerns, their joys, and their fears. Their services were divided by sharing them with fellow members; their joys were multiplied as they rejoiced in our midst. Time has cemented the bond we shared. Our unit, our UCW's closeness grew as the years passed by.

But now we have lost our earthly connection with dear and cherished friends. There is emptiness, a vacant spot left in our midst where our dear friends and members used to serve. We miss them; we long for those days once more.

But we are earthly beings. We only understand a minute part of creation, perhaps a mere three score and ten of all eternity. So it is Lord that we commend our friends, your servants, into Your tender care. Rejoice that we assured that they are with You and are cherished dearly by you. We will remember them with love and affection.

We will light a candle to remind us of our friends and any members who have left an emptiness in our hearts.

A little tribute small and tender, just to say, still remembered, though absent, you are very near, still loved, still missed, and very dear.

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New Book

Ralph Milton was the guest speaker at the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters annual meeting held virtually June 3 and 4. He is the author of many books. His latest book is called *Well Aged. Making the Most of Your Platinum Years*.

The book covers a wide range of topics related to seniors. It is available in bookstores, or can be ordered on line. The print is an easy size to read.

Devotion based on the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Prosper 11) (Year C) July 17, 2022

"Using our time, talents, and treasures to provide hope."

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement; Lighting the Christ Candle or your tradition for beginning worship.

Call to worship:
We come today thinking of some New Testament women, and thinking of those in our midst.....
who provide hospitality ..... who tend and care for others..... who listen.....who dream.....who lead
We think of those who think on the word and those who take that word to others.
We think today of women in the New Testament, and their legacy to us many centuries later.

Prayer: We think of Lydia, Tabitha, the servant girl, and how they provided us with hope. We give thanks for Marthas and Marys who provide us with examples of being and doing. We give thanks for the women today for their leadership at home, in their churches, workplace and communities. Amen.

Scripture: John 10:38-42 Jesus visits Mary and Martha

Possible Hymns: VU 605 Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold MV 12 Come Touch Our Hearts

Reflection: We are all different. We were born in different decades, to different parents, have lived in a variety of family configurations in many different places. We have attended a variety of schools, and have had many roles at home, in the workplace and in the community.

We learn differently: Some of us remember better when we see things, or hear things, or actually do something and use our hands. Some of us need a demonstration to remember.

Our talents, gifts and interests are different. Aren't we thankful for that? How boring it would be if we were all good at the same things. Mary, in the reading from Luke was the listener, the one who was at Jesus' feet absorbing his message in her own world completely unaware that food needed to be prepared. Martha, on the other hand, was rather frazzled in the kitchen preparing to feed a crowd. We need both in our groups. Some of us are both Martha and Mary.

Lydia, the wealthy seller of purple cloth extended hospitality, Tabitha, the seamstress, provided care, tending, and giving hope to the needy while the servant girl whose spirit provided hope until it was removed. We are left wondering what her future held. How many there are with out hope today.

How do we provide hope in the way we use our talents, time, and treasures.? How can we radiate hope through our actions? How can our work with the United Church Women provide hope to others? How can we help others to use their talents and gifts? Can we provide opportunities in our communities of faith for women to meet --- for study, for fellowship, for fun, for learning. Remember, fundraising is not in the UCW purpose.

Prayer: We give thanks for all members of our communities of faith. We give thanks for their talents and gifts and time. Let us provide opportunities for those gifts to be utilized for their own happiness and that of others.

Possible Hymns: MV 104 Know that God is Good; VU 575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.

Benediction: Go, provide hope to others through your spoken and unspoken actions. Radiate hope in your home, in your church and in your community. Like Mary, Martha, Lydia, Tabitha, and the servant girl, we each provide hope in our own but different ways. Amen

Written by Elaine Burrows, Summerside, PE. Retired LLWL. May 23, 2022. Adapt this worship to the needs of your group giving credit for its source .

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