



Maritime UCW NEWS

Fall 2025

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President's Greeting

My first activity following our June Executive meeting was to journey to Wilson United Church in Margaree Centre. I got lost at least once even with the GPS. Hosted by the women of Wilson United this gathering offered a number of practical fund raising ideas. A suggestion was raised that individual units ask the family of a departed member for permission to speak about and honour her UCW activities at the funeral. It was also enjoyable to experience the good hearted banter between Rev. Dale Crawford and her sister Liz Birch throughout the day. And of course the food was excellent. Thank you to Liz for her hospitality as salmon season is not the time to be looking for accommodation anywhere in the area. I have never seen so many hip-wader clad men and women in one place in my life. Not even in a Bass Pro Catalogue. I participated in an AGM planning meeting via Zoom in August. Thanks to some very creative committee members I believe we have set the foundation for an excellent AGM. On September 11, I was joined by Anna Peters on a two-fold mission. We first travelled to Keswick Ridge to meet with Marilyn Bubar's unit. Marilyn extended an invitation to several surrounding area UCWs to join the meeting and said she would be happy with an attendance of about 20 women. Imagine our surprise at meeting with just over 40 women. Following a brief business meeting Marilyn repeated the love overflowing activity that she had presented at our last AGM. It was very well received. I was able to provide some MUCW information and to encourage those in attendance to plan to participate in our 2026 Annual Meeting to be held just down the road in Fredericton at Nashwaaksis United Church We enjoyed coffee, tea and a delightful dessert. I also distributed quite a number of our new member cards with the revised purpose and prayer.

The following day Marilyn, Anna and I were joined by Debbie Hawkins and some wonderful members of the Nashwaaksis UCW to discuss our AGM venue. We toured the facility and found it would meet our needs and were delighted at the enthusiasm of our host unit as they discussed meal plans, music and technical supports etc. All in all it was an uplifting and energizing two days. We left on a cloud of optimism. And I would be remiss if we did not thank Marilyn and James and their son Chris and daughter-in-law Donna for their generous hospitality.

And then the big event –the NUCW AGM in Mississauga. please read the NUCW Annual Meeting report for detailed information. Thank you all for your help and support and especially Ann and Anna for attending the event in Summerside PEI on October 4th weekend while I opted to attend a family event.
Respectfully submitted

Betty Ann Watts

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and PEI contact**

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South Shore/Valley: Contact Vacant

For each of the above contact thru
MUCW recording/ media Secretary

**If your UCW is in one of the above
areas please consider becoming a
contact person for your area.**

Regional Council News

The Executive of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Councils met in separate two day in person meetings during the last week of October. These meetings were to be held in September, however the meetings were rescheduled due to a death in the family of Rev. Faith March-MacCuish. We pray that we were a comfort to her during this most difficult time.

On the first day we were introduced to “Toward 2035” a program that was launched at General Council 45. Each region has an important part to play in developing a forward-thinking plan which will determine the direction that the church is going in the next 10 years and beyond.

The second day included the regular business of the Regional Council. BNS met in Trinity United Church in New Glasgow NS. We were invited to have lunch at the Church where a community hot meal is provided. It was lovely to see the community outreach and to share the table with those who came to have a meal. Over the next while we will be evaluating our council structure and discerning if any changes are needed. Keep watching this space for updates.

New Life Members Honoured



Trinity United Church Women in Shediac, NB,

Two members were honoured with Life Membership in a special ceremony at October's unit meeting.

Shown (L-R): Myrna Ward, Trinity UCW President;
Bonnie Wallace – Life Membership recipient;
Chignecto UCW President Lois Budd; and
Elizabeth Hyndman – Life Membership recipient.

Mountainview UCW Moncton, NB

Two members were honoured with Life Membership in October. Congratulations **Deborah Ellison** and **Carolyn Smith**.





**National United Church Women Annual General Meeting
September 15-19, 2025**

Ann Piper, Myra Thiemann, Anna Peters and Betty Ann Watts attended the 2025 NUCW AGM as your representatives. There were opportunities to learn more about the wider church, hear inspiring and inspired presentations to worship and work together and of course to renew friendships and make new connections. Members of the Executive (all regional representatives) gathered at the Queen of the Apostles retreat Centre in Mississauga throughout the day Monday and came together at approximately 5 pm to be welcomed by President –Elect Barbara DeJeet. Following dinner we joined in a worship service led by East Central Ontario and a Community Building activity presented by Prairie to Pine. Vespers were led by Antler River.

The meeting officially got underway at 9:00 am Tuesday following morning worship led by Newfoundland & Labrador West District. The first item on the agenda was the financial report. It was agreed to transfer \$50,000 from the life membership fund to the Dorothy Amos Fund to ensure there were sufficient funds to provide some financial support to those wishing to attend the 65th Anniversary Event in Ottawa in 2027. The \$10, 600 remaining in the Women for Change Zambia was paid out. A total of \$106,395 was raised for this project over its five year duration. To date our women have raised \$73,689.74 for healing fund and has funded three projects. The next project will be identified early in 2026 following completion of the current Healing with Horses project.

We heard from General Secretary Rev. Michael Blair and our new Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath. Rev. Blair provided insights into the national strategy “Call toward 2035” He identified the United Church of Canada as being seen as the “Soul of the Nation” at the time of its creation 100 years ago adding that the UCC continues to be an important part of the Canadian landscape as the largest protestant denomination in the country.



Myra Thiemann, Rt. Rev. Michael Blair, Ann Piper, Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Betty Ann Watts, Anna Peters.

But as we all know largest is no longer as large as it once was. He said based on census data 1.2 million fewer Canadians identified as United Church compared to 1992. Today the church counts about 300,000 members based on statistical reports filed by congregations with an average attendance of 111,000.

The projected rate of decline suggests that in 10 years membership will decline to about 111,000 with attendance estimated at 8,000. He did not however bring a message of doom and gloom stating “The Church belongs to God. The Church won’t die”. He was emphatic in stating “God is doing some new things among us.” He shared that he is aware of concerns that the National UCW is no longer given a seat at General Council but suggested there are other means to ensure our voices are heard. He concluded by stating, “You are not devalued. I trust that you will continue to weave into the future.”

Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath also shared concerns and called for a more active outreach mindset, saying people are desperate for connection. “We have lost the village. Village spaces are disappearing, The Church is the village. In the village we get to know people who are different.” Online connections are important and essential for many but, she suggests that people will step into the church, not for worship, but for things that happen in the church. We need to provide opportunities for genuine connection. Our role is to go deeper into our faith. We need strength to be a witness in this broken world.” She concluded by stating, “Our task is to be faithful, to sit at the Master’s feet and listen. Our call is to be the *cheerer*; to love, to be faithful. May we step up boldly knowing it is not all up to us?”

NUCW – continued

Amy Crawford joined the meeting via Zoom to share exciting news about youth ministry programs and projects including Youth Animators program, Climate Motivators, Youth Forums, Indigenous led youth opportunities and much more here and beyond our borders. Many programs have been developed and delivered in cooperation with other protestant denominations building on shared strengths and resources. Wednesday began with morning worship led by Quebec UCW.

Our first presentation of the day provided information and insight into the Church in Mission with a focus on Justice Work including the Global Partnership Program, Mutual Radical Accompaniment, the AXE alliance and worldwide partnerships to address decolonization, human rights, water, mining and gender public witness, crisis responses and much more including trying to identify and be prepared for what shifting power structures might look like... Marilyn Johnston is our NUCW representative to this group.

Next we heard from the healing program coordinator, Joni Shawana and learned more about the Healing with Horses program through a video presentation... Ruth Noble, Executive Director of Affirm United guided us through an informative Genderbread exercise that tested our perceptions and provided an LGBTQI2S glossary of terms which I am certain will prove beneficial to many

Rev. Jennifer Henry, Executive Minister Organizational Development and Strategy (Planning, Communications and Growth) reiterated much of what was shared by the Moderator and General Secretary providing examples of successful growth programs She urged us to testify to the good in our place and time and to “witness in the United Church of Canada is rooted in truth”. She said we should look for glimmers of glory and silver linings and nourish and celebrate them. She urged us to “make a way where there is no way; to begin to see where God is doing a new thing among us.”

Following dinner we participated in a grant writing workshop. Chinook Winds and Northern Sprit closed the evening with vespers.

Thursday Morning worship was led by your Maritime contingent. You may wish to ask Ann Piper for a copy of her reflection as it was very well received.

Budget was the first topic of the morning and while there was some discussion and some minor adjustments there appeared to be no contentious issues. The Executive approved a 2026 operating budget of \$91,325. This was followed by summary presentations of Regional Reports included in the annual Report. The next item on the agenda UCW representation on regional council executives elicited a lot of discussion. It was agreed to form a committee one person from each of the nine regions without representation to develop a joint strategy and action plan. Letters of support to come from regions such as ours who currently enjoy representation.

Rev. Amy Crawford joined us in person to lead us in a bible study with a call to action. Rev Crawford has been very supportive of the NUCW and will be retiring from General Council staff later this year The NUCW presented her with a life membership.

Former executive member, author and cancer survivor Joan Zaretsky led an inspirational and reflective workshop title “Holy Moments” based on a book of the same title by Mathew Kelly with a focus on identifying Holy Moments in our lives and creating holy moments for others.

We received an update from the 65th Anniversary Planning Committee Chair, Kim Baird.

The Celebration will be held July 19-23, 2027 at the Ottawa Airport Garden Inn (Hilton)

The anniversary will be, “A gathering of UCW women from across Canada celebrating fellowship through music, devotions, workshops and guest speakers as we explore the theme **Hear Our Voice.**” (see further information on next page)

Our closing worship, communion and installation of our new President Barbara DeJeet was led by Rev. Japhat Mdhlovn. His message was one of hope and encouragement.

Vespers were led by Shining waters and then we adjourned for an evening of fellowship and entertainment.

Friday’s morning worship was led by the NUCW executive, followed by the wrap up of unfinished business. The next NUCW AGM will be held September 14-18, 2026.

It is with great sadness to announce of the death of our dearly loved National UCW Past President, Beulah Hayley. Beulah died peacefully, with all her loved ones around her, on Wednesday morning, October 22, 2025. Beulah was a force of joy and light, a woman of deep faith and spirit. Beulah will be long remembered by all who had the blessing to meet her.



SAVE THE DATE AND STASH YOUR CASH
National UCW 65th Anniversary Celebration
July 19-23, 2027 Ottawa, Ontario

Where: Hilton Garden Inn Airport – Free Airport Shuttle
Guaranteed hotel price \$230 per night incl. taxes Double Occupancy

Theme: "Hear Our Voice"

Theme Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide"

Theme Scripture: Proverbs 8:1

Registration fee estimated \$500

\$300 Bursary available from Dorothy Amos Fund

Applications will be received between January 1, 2026 and deadline **July 2, 2026**

Many exciting tours have been planned. We will hear from many speakers including Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath and Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdown, Senator Bernadette Clament, Barbara Helms, Rev. Tucovi Arminian as well as representatives from Catholic Women's league, Jewish Women and others. A detailed list will be available once the agenda is confirmed.

Two Rivers Pastoral Charge - Westfield United Church- UCW

Our UCW hosted a November 11, Remembrance Day Turkey Dinner. We offered eat in or take out at 4 and 5 PM. Advance Tickets were sold at Grand Bay Home Hardware. The money, that we raised for the National Healing Fund, was sent in. Linda McCullough, Paula Smith Co President

Bethany UCW - Mill Village, Queens Co., NS

We are a very active group although we are small in numbers, our community is great when asking for help. We hold meetings on the 1st Wednesday during the months of September through to December and then April through to June.

This year we have catered to three receptions held in our community. We hold a regular "Penny Auction" in May, which is well attended and hold our big fundraiser in November which is our annual Christmas Tea, Food and Craft Sale. We've been doing a family Christmas stocking fundraiser for the past few years and this has proved to be profitable for us and fun for the winner.

During the Christmas season, we do up "Cheer Baskets" for the sick and shut-ins. These baskets contain homemade goodies, candy, fresh fruit and whatever else we can fit in. The elderly certainly enjoy the basket and a visit as well. We also adopt two seniors, male and female, from our local Seniors Home and fill a stocking with presents. When the church needs help with anything we are there to offer our services. We hold an Annual "Blessing of the Animals" service where we encourage attendees to bring their animals (alive or stuffed) to have blessed. We do not have a Sunday School anymore so we try to have a special Christmas service with singers from our community and also hold a Christmas Eve Service as well.

Kirk McColl General UCW

The general UCW (Sunshine & Fellowship Units) met on September 22nd at Kirk-McColl United, St. Stephen, NB for a potluck supper and meeting. Special speaker, Steve Backman, President of the Charlotte County Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, spoke about the history of the Hospital, previous Fundraising activities for improvements and upgrades, as well as the upcoming Radiothon to purchase new equipment. We presented him with a donation for the Hospital Foundation and thanked him for joining us and sharing. Plans were made for our Oct. 3rd Harvest Potluck and our Christmas Bazaar for November 8th.

– Bev Spires, President

Wilmot UCW, Fredericton

In September we had Tracey Richards of *The Living End Doula Service* as guest speaker at our meeting. We also had seven members attend the Keswick Ridge UCW to meet our Maritime UCW President, Betty Ann Watts. We are looking forward to the Annual General Meeting of MUCW next April to be held at Nashwaaksis United Church the last week-end in April.

We are looking forward to Dianne Clowater speaking to us about her experience at the Woman's Retreat, "*Dancing to 2035*" in Toronto, at our next meeting.

Our Fall Rummage Sale was held on Oct. 24th & 25th; We made pre-ordered apple pies on Nov. 6 & 7th; and had a Bake Sale and New to You sale – Nov. 28th.

The November meeting will be a program of Remembrance and in December we host a potluck and thank you for our helpers. A busy fall for sure at Wilmot!

- Linda Gough

St. John's, Fall River – Halifax District UCW

St. John's UCW in Fall River, NS, hosted the Halifax District UCW Fall Rally on October 18th. Thirty-two UCW members from Halifax District attended this event. Our guest speakers were from the Beacon House Board of Directors and Beacon House Shelter. They shared with us their ongoing work with the homeless community, the services they provide and statistics around the needs in the community. During the month of October, St. John's UCW collects warm socks, hats, mitts and gloves for the shelter and the women attending the Fall Rally contributed to this project and were very generous. St. John's held our annual Turkey-a-la-King Luncheon and Christmas Bazaar, one of our major fundraising events, on Saturday, November 29th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A very popular item at this event is the Christmas Cookie Tin sale – where you can purchase two dozen Christmas cookies in a decorated cookie tin for \$15 – a great deal with today's prices for food.

We end off the year with a potluck supper and candlelight service on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. open to members of the congregation. Many people say this annual event kicks off the Christmas season for them – a time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

- Helen Garneau

Nashwaaksis – Unit 6

The summer seemed to fly by. Unit 6 was busy in the kitchen over those months making jam, jelly and pickles for the Christmas Bazaar. Several members from both Units at Nashwaaksis United were able to attend a gathering at Keswick Ridge United in September. We were so pleased to receive that invitation and enjoy an evening of worship and fellowship. Our next event was a Bridge Luncheon on Oct. 2 with 22 tables registered. Our Christmas Bazaar held on Saturday, November 15th included our Silent Auction, tables for crafts, preserves, quilted items and our Continental Breakfast as well. Plans have already begun for the MUCW Annual meeting to be held here in April 2026.

- Joan McGee

Keswick Ridge UCW

On September 11th we held our regular meeting in a special way, and invited local UCW's to join us in welcoming our Maritime UCW President, Betty Ann Watts to our area for the evening. A wonderful time of fellowship, information and a devotion on "Love Overflowing" made up the program for the evening. Guests from Kingsley, Wilmot, Nashwaaksis, and Forest Hill UCW's joined with the Keswick Ridge UCW numbering over forty ladies in attendance.

Betty Ann spoke to us about her travels and work within the Maritimes over the past year and a half and is excited about the next Maritime Annual Gathering taking place in Nashwaaksis next April, at which time the National President plans to be in attendance as well. We also welcomed Anna Peters, MUCW Executive member and past President of the Chignecto District who travelled from Moncton with Betty Ann to be with us as well. Next is a picture of our gathering that night.



MUCW president Betty Ann Watts at Keswick Ridge UCW meeting with UCW members from around the area.

Nashwaaksis – Unit 3

After enjoying the summer break our Fall activities and meetings have started. Our Bazaar was held in mid-November. Some of our members attended the September meeting of the Keswick Ridge UCW and met the Maritime UCW President. Our Unit placed an order for 100th Anniversary pins and these have been available for sale. A contribution was made towards the purchase of copies of the new hymn book "Then Let Us Sing" for the choir. The Prayer Chain is still active and prayer shawls are given out to those in need of a little extra comfort. Our UCWs are looking forward to hosting the Annual Meeting of the Maritime UCW in April of next year.

St. Andrews UCW – Harvey Station –

In September the UCW hosted a potluck with all ladies of the congregation invited, a good way to start the fall season.

Following our October meeting, the church was decorated for the Harvest Season with decorations and preserves made by members. Again this year the ladies have put together 52 packages with items to prepare tuna/chicken noodle casseroles for **Lakeland Food Bank**, such a great idea. It was a busy 90 minutes, but it was wonderful to see the happiness at being able to provide these services. Ever heard of **An Angel Fund?** Well, this is what these ladies call accumulating their extra small change toward a special project. Over this past year they have amassed \$500 and it will go toward upcoming repair of some of the stained glass windows at their church. - Janet Blair

St. George & St. Andrew's UCW

Good news, our membership has grown from 7 to 14. Although small in numbers, we are a very busy group who enjoy helping our members and those less fortunate in our community. We had our annual Take home Turkey supper, with the leftovers being made into Turkey Pot Pies for sale. We donated to the Memorial Lights Fund which goes to the Annapolis Community Health Centre to provide assistance to families in need. We also pledged funds to repair the church dishwasher. Brunswick Mission, Chrysalis House, Two local school breakfast programs, and operational needs of the church are all supported with our donations. We will also be delivering a card and a gift to each of our shut-ins at Christmas.

– Sheila Goldsmith

Maritime UCW 65th Anniversary Banner

The celebration is taking place in Ottawa in July 2027. I am sure that many of you have been involved in creating our Anniversary Banners in the past. It is time to start working on our next one. The banner is 3' by 4' or 36" by 48" with a 6 inch sleeve on the back for hanging, The banner will look like a window. There will be a centre block on a blue background with gold or yellow thread which will read Maritime United Church Women 1962-2027. I will get that embroidered in Summerside. There will be 4-7" square blocks along the top and bottom (8 in all). Along each side there will be 2 – 7" wide by 12" long oblong blocks on each side. (4 in all). There will be another shade of blue sashing between each block and a blue with yellow or gold binding. The blocks can be the 65th anniversary theme – "Here Our Voice" or a UCW theme or a Maritime theme. Get out your creativity. What will your block look like? The deadline for getting the blocks done and submitted to us is June 15, 2026. This is the date of the in-person meeting of the executive and the 12 blocks will be chosen. Any blocks not chosen will go on the after quilt (the back). Please ensure that you pin the name of the maker(s) to the block so that we can list all the makers of the blocks on the back of the quilt. The blocks can be pieced, appliqued, embroidered, etc. Use your imagination. Please leave the blocks at the size given. They will be trimmed to size. **Remember there will be a 1/4" seam allowance around each side.** Have fun. For questions or further information please contact Elaine Burrows. contact info is on page two of this newsletter.

Report from Berwick Camp UCW Day

Berwick Camp UCW Day on Wednesday, July 30 was well received. It was a beautiful day for travel and women from across the Maritimes began arriving during the morning to enjoy what Berwick Camp had to offer. Many enjoyed a delicious meal at the Dining Hall accompanied by great conversation before attending the program in the Covered Pavilion in the afternoon.

The theme for camp this year was Go Boldly and the ministry team was very creative bringing Star Trek into the theme as "Go Boldly where no one has gone before." The main speaker for our UCW program was Bishop Rev. Karen Olivetto a retired bishop of the United Methodist Church. She was the Minister in Residence for the camp and spoke to us of her journey into ministry in a powerful way. Chris and Laura Bowman, camp music directors, assisted us in the music for the service. The offering collected that day was \$301 and was sent to the healing fund. A memorial service for members who had passed was led by Marilyn Bubar and there was a display of photos from previous Maritime and National UCW events over many years. These were provided by the family of the late Letha Mowatt, a much loved and longtime leader in Maritime UCW. The program and service was planned by Ann Piper and Jocelyn Langille.

After the service, a time of refreshments was provided at the UCW Cookie Cottage (Cookies from PEI) where we added a nameplate with Letha's name to the memorial plaque on the Cookie Cottage. A fitting end to a great day.

Jocelyn Langille - Christian Life and Growth

Rock-A-Thon Trinity UCW - Oxford NS

We hosted a Rock-A-Thon in September. We each brought in our own rocking chair. We started to rock at 11:00 am when our church service started and we continued to rock until 3:00 pm. We brought our own lunch and UCW provided tea and coffee. We were rocking at the front of the church. There were about 9 of us and we worked hard before the event to get sponsors. Due to having some very generous supporters, we raised over **\$3500.00**. – Heather Macdonald

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." – **Sherry Anderson**

PEI Rally

On October 4th UCW women of PEI held a fall rally at Trinity United Church in Summerside. Betty Ann Watts our maritime president was unable to attend due to a family function, but Ann Piper, president-elect and Myra Thiemann – recording secretary brought news from Maritime and National UCWs.

The morning began with a rousing sing along with music from our new hymnbook, “Then Let Us Sing”. This was led by Louise Elder – music director at Trinity United and was enjoyed by all.

Next, we heard from Corina Bolo who gave a very interesting presentation called, “Lessons from Elephants”. Corina has gone on Mission Building trips and learned so much about the elephants in the Sri Lankan village that she was working in.

These are some of the lessons that one can learn from Elephants

Love each other as I have loved you.

Always cherish your young.

Play nice with those smaller than you.

Live in and Celebrate Community.

Another very interesting fact that we learned is that Elephants eat a lot of plant material and of course all that food produces a huge amount of Dung (poop). In fact, a single elephant can produce 150 to 250 pounds, (70 to 115 kilograms) of dung per day. So, what does one do with all that dung? These very smart people have created an industry to use that waste product to make paper and very beautiful artwork. Dung consists mainly of cellulose, and it can be washed, dried, mulched and used to make paper. Corina showed us a statue of an elephant that was lovingly created and beautifully made from the paper product created from dung.

“Sri Lanka has been using this resource since 1997, and this genius idea of elephant poo paper has been responsible for alleviating poverty, facilitating job creation and rural empowerment. This process has also saved billions of trees from being axed because the Rainforest Action Network estimated that 3 to 7 billion trees are cut down globally to manufacture paper.”

I am always fascinated by things I learn at UCW meetings.

- Ann Piper

MUCW Annual General Meeting

April 24-26, 2026

Nashwaaskis United Church
46 Main St. Fredericton NB

Theme: Creator, Creation and I

Scripture: Job 12:7-10

Guests: National UCW president Barbara Dejeet
Tri-Region Executive Minister Faith March-MacCuish
and others to be confirmed

There will be regular business meeting of MUCW, worship, workshops,
informative speakers, entertainment and community.

Cost: Registration \$30 Meals \$80 for all.

Watch for registration and further details in next issue of the Newsletter

*"May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the
Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and
forgiven, for Jesus' sake. - Amen!"*

~ Robert Louis Stevenson