

Sask. UCCW Newsletter May 2024

**This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- Psalm 118:24**

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Sask. UCCW hosted a one-day Women's Gathering at St. David's Trinity United Church in Saskatoon on April 27.

Our special guests were the Very Rev. Jordan Cantwell, Past Moderator of The United Church of Canada and now Growth Animator for the Prairie 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 Arscott. 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: led by Mary Mohn and Allison Irvine. We remembered the following from Perdue: Judith Lynn Latta 1943 – 2021, Elsie Kkowalenko 1925 – 2021; Moose Jaw Trinity United: Vera Drake – 2024; Mount Royal Emmanuel Saskatoon: Grace Watson 1934 – 2024, Hilda Anderson; Grosvenor Park, Saskatoon: 1924 -2023 Martha Pankratz; Sask UCCW Past Co-Chair, Indian Head 1944 - 2024 Betty Anne Williamson; Knox UCC, Shellbrook UCW Charter Member: 1928 – 2023 Mae Atkinson; Weyburn: 1927 - 2023 Beatrice Shirran.

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.



The newly elected executive: l to r Co-chairs- Allison Irvin and Diane Thurlow; First Vice Chair – Debz Ferber; Secretary- Barb Byers Bradley; Treasurer- Phyllis Robinson. Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle installed the executive; the financial statement and budget were passed as well as the reports from the Co-chairs and Bursary Fund.



GREETINGS FROM YOUR NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH WOMEN - CAROLLE DALLAS- ARBUCKLE FOR BARBARA DAVISON:

As President, I am sending greetings on behalf of the National United Church Women, to the ladies of the Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women's Annual Gathering. "Growing Spiritually" is something that continues throughout our lives, when we follow a Creed that has "The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit" at the centre of its beliefs. When we are young, we attend Sunday School and learn all the Bible Stories that show us the pathway to God. When we are older, we dig deeper into the Bible, and this can strengthen our path from our readings. We can then become members of the Church to show our belief in God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we age, we use the knowledge gained from our spiritual journey to join groups, such as Explorers, CGIT, church

choir, Bible study groups, and United Church Women. This is where our ladies shine, by carrying out what they have learned during their years of learning and their experiences. God helped the people of Israel to travel from Egypt to the land he had chosen for them. Jesus helped the poor and needy, the sick and people with disabilities, in fact anyone who needed help. Our UCW carries on this tradition of helping, our ladies make meals, hold thrift sales, assist new mothers with the boxes of Maternal Items. These are the kind of things that will help one side of our spirituality grow, but there are other ways we help our communities, our country and those needing help throughout the world. Our years of learning, teaching, and experiencing helping the people of God is being carried out through our United Church Women, and I thank you for all your hard work. I ask God's blessings on your meeting.

Barbara Davison (President of NUCW representing the National United Church Women)

The Healing Fund: The National UCW over the last 10 years have decided to have their special project parallels the National UCW Anniversaries which are held every five years and are hosted by different Regions. Usually, we work with the Global Partners of The United Church of Canada to find projects that support women and children. Last September the National UCW executive voted on staying within Canada for our special project and The Healing Fund was voted on. The Healing Fund is administered by Indigenous Ministries and Justice. So here we are saying here is some money and we want you to spend it on women and children. That is colonialism, giving money and wanting them to do things our way not their way. That was not what we wanted so we arranged a zoom chat with Rev. Murray Pruden, Executive Minister Indigenous Ministries and Justice asking how we could partner and support Indigenous women and children, we are a women's organization after all. Rev. Murray

stated that the Healing Fund was blessed to have UCW's support and that we would work together to make this happen. This was followed by a zoom meeting with the sub-executive of National UCW, Angie, our support staff at General Council office and Joni Shawana who is the Healing Fund Programs Coordinator. Joni had already met with the panel who works and approves the Healing Fund grants to see how best our goals could be met. She asked many questions about what we would be interested in supporting and we decided to give it a try. The Healing Fund was established in 1994 and supports healing initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts. Indigenous communities may apply for up to \$15,000.00 to create healing, culture, and/or language projects.

The UCW Endowment Fund The UCW Endowment Fund The United Church of Canada Foundation set up an Endowment Fund in 2012 to honour all the work done by the UCW women. Yearly interest at 4.25 per cent, once the balance reaches \$15,000.00 will be granted to Mission & Service unless the National UCW executive votes to have it go somewhere else this year. Your gift in memory of or in honour of a UCW women will become part of a lasting gift to Mission & Service every year. UCW is now and always will be an active part of The United Church of Canada, even if physically we are not there, our contribution to Mission & Service will continue and be acknowledge as coming from UCW. As of December 31, 2023, the balance in the endowment fund is \$31,223.92.

The 65th Anniversary of UCW is being hosted by Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region UCW. This region is made up of 4 areas, Seaway Valley, Ottawa which includes the Outaouais a part of the Quebec boarding the Ottawa River, Four Rivers and Upper Valley. You are invited to join us July 19 to 23, 2027 in Ottawa for a week of celebrating UCW. Our Theme is "Hear Our Voice" Scripture: Proverb 8:1 (Wisdom's Call) "Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?" Kim Baird is the chair of the planning committee and I am treasurer and registrar, the other members are Cheryl Sullivan, Linda Stronski, Denis Wood, Nancy Desjardins and Charlotte Hoy. We have an anniversary email address which you can email and ask to be on the contact list. Use this same email address, with registration in the subject line, to be able to register on line and pay by e-transfer. Email address: ucw65anniversary@united-church.ca . Our chair Kim Baird hopes to have more confirmed information by the National UCW September meeting.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY – Guest Speaker: Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle

When Dawn asked me if I would speak on your theme growing spiritually, I had no hesitation saying sure, yes I can do that. What was I thinking no I can't, there has to be someone better than me to do this, and by the way wasn't Jordon going to be there. Women who have been on a zoom call with me, sees the bookshelf and bulletin board in my office. One of the post-it notes says: *Grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, The courage to change direction when I see them coming, and the wisdom to not try to smack some sense into them when I can't avoid them.* And I am here to speak about growing spiritually, this is going to be a fun afternoon. My Oxford Dictionary of English states: Growing as coming into existence and

developing, come to feel or think something over time, become larger or greater over a period of time. Well larger and bigger over time I have done that. The Dictionary states; spiritually as relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things, having a relationship based on a profound level of mental or emotional communion. Not much help there. The United Church of Canada's Mission is Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice. You can find worship resources on the church's webpage. On the church's worship blog for Deep Spirituality, Theologian Rob Fennel writes that spirituality is the way we seek and receive God's love and grace in everyday life. He also states that maybe we don't need a definition of spirituality. We can just do it, or be it, or live it. This is the statement that speaks to me. Our spiritual faith journey is a personal journey, growing spiritually is different for everyone. Our relationship with God is also different from anyone else. When you take the part of Barbara Davison's message to you, she describes, when we are young, we attend Sunday School and learn all the Bible Stories that show us the pathway to God. When we are older, we dig deeper into the Bible, and this can strengthen our path from our readings. We can then become members of the Church to show our belief in God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we age, we use the knowledge gained from our spiritual journey to join groups, such as Explorers, CGIT, church choir, Bible study groups, and United Church Women. Carolle continued with examples of how her spiritual life has grown and how strong her relationship with God is. She shared some of her many conversations with God....even in the middle of the night.

Then it was our turn to answer questions on sticky notes with no names attached. She collected them and will forward answers in the next few weeks. Here are the questions:

Question #1 Do you have a spiritual mentor, friend, someone you can count on to talk and listen? Yes or no is fine; you don't have to put a name.

Question #2 What role would you say faith plays in your life?

Question #3 Do you find praying easy? Does it come naturally and you have no problem with daily prayer or is this an area you would like God to help you with? Question #4 Do you attend Bible study groups or read your bible daily or is this an area you would like God to help you with?

Question #5 What would you say are your spiritual gifts?

Question #6 How comfortable are you with witnessing your faith? Would you enjoy a gathering where you would listen to others speaking about their faith journey?

Question #7 How comfortable are you with witnessing your faith? If a gathering were planned as mentioned in the previous question, would you offer to share your faith journey?

Question #8 Using General Council, Region, Community of faith and UCW list them in the order starting with the one that inspires your faith the most? the last one being the one that inspires your faith the least?

Maybe we don't need a definition of spirituality. We can just do it, or be it, or live it.



Out-going Co-chair Dawn Weber thanking Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, National UCW treasurer for sharing her time and thoughts.

The silent auction was busy, and the book display offered by Bev Irvine and Allison Irvine was enjoyed by all. The food prepared and served by St. David's Trinity Hospitality Group was delicious.

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.



IT'S CAMP TIME:

Lumsden Beach Camp: Looking for a cook for the summer. Contact:

<https://www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com/volunteers-and-leaders/job-postings>

May 25 - 26 at Camp Tapawingo at Candle Lake Saturday is camp clean-up and Sunday there will be a special service on Vesper Hill with potluck lunch following. Please contact Terry at info@camptapawingo.net

June 1 – 2 CAMP-A-PALOOZA 2024

YOU love camp. WE love camp. And we really love it when we all get together! It's time for Camp-A-Palooza 2024, and this year we're making the trek to Camp Shagabec down in the gorgeous Cypress Hills. If you've never been there before, you

are in for a real treat! Camp Shagabec has some really unique traditions and a site like no other, and the use of their space is absolutely incredible.

We'll gather on Saturday at 1 pm and spend the afternoon discussing the things that YOU would find helpful to launch the 2024 season. We'll figure out ways to collaborate and support each other, whether it's program resources, funding ideas, governance models, social media and communications... everything is on the table! Saturday evening we'll have supper together and then try and squeeze in some of our favourite parts of camp into one evening – campfire, songs, skits, games... you name it. If you'd like to stay overnight, there are lots of beds available – just indicate on the registration form and don't forget your sleeping bag.

Sunday morning we'll get up and have breakfast together and then head back to our own corners of the province to bring all our new ideas and excitement back to our own camps!

To register: <https://form.jotform.com/240815350590251>

– Lindsay & Meghan (YAYAC Staff)

June 11 LADIES DAY AT CAMP GULL LAKE

PEOPLE ARE LIKE A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS

Come celebrate women of ALL shapes and sizes, colour and fragrance,
Just like a bouquet of flowers

Join us at **Knox United Church** Located at 4175 Price Avenue, Gull Lake, SK
\$20.00 per person (includes dinner)

10:00 a.m. Registration/Muffins/Coffee

11:00 a.m. Welcome

Memorials – Please bring names for your memorial

Exercise in your chair

12:00 p.m. Blessing before dinner / Dinner

1:00 p.m. Craft

1:30 p.m. Guest Speaker – **Bev Potter**

2:00 p.m. Songs

2:15 p.m. Snacks/Coffee/Tea

2:30 p.m. What are you doing to support your Church and Community?

Business

3:00 p.m. Communion

Song

Say Goodbyes

Please remember to bring your cookies for Camp Shagabec.

For information contact: JoAnn Allison 306-672-7617

July 21 at Camp Woodboia Camp Sunday and 75th Anniversary. Lunch will follow
Worship Service. For information contact Rev. Janelle Shaw or www.campwoodboia.com

**September 6 – 9 Save the date for Christopher Lake Women's Camp at Christopher
Lake.** For more information go to info@campchristopher.ca

ADVICE FROM A RIVER:

Go with the flow

Immerse yourself in nature

Slow down and meander

Go around the obstacles

Be thoughtful of those downstream

Stay current

The Beauty is in the journey.

--Ilan Shamir

Blessings,

Mary