A Christmas story

It was a cold Christmas Eve in 1983
When my Momma wrapped up my sister and me
In our hats and boots, mitts and scarf
And told us to ‘run out and jump in the car’.
I think I was ‘bout seven and my sister was nine
We didn't want to go out, we were just fine
To stay in the house all comfy and warm
Rather than go out in the cold and the storm.
Momma made it clear we weren't gonna stay
’Cause Santa don't come to kids that disobey,
So we trudged out the door into the snow and the cold
And sat in the car, like we were told.

Then Momma started bringing stuff out to the car
Like bottles and cans, boxes and jars.
She tossed it all in the trunk and slammed the lid shut
My sister and I still don't know what
We were doing or where we were goin’
And in that black old night, the wind kept on blowin’
Well Momma had a big grin when she slid into the front seat
We asked her tons of questions, but she didn't say a peep.
She just started the car and drove into town,
While the snow kept on floating down.
Now I may a been young, but knew it just wasn’t right
To be in on the wrong side of town this time of night.

We pulled up in front of this run-down old shack
With a couple of cars up on blocks in the back.
Momma went to the door and rang the bell,
And from the look on his face, you could just tell
That guy wasn't expecting any visitors that night,
But a moment later he’d turned on a light
And came out to the car and helped Momma with the stuff
Back and forth to the house they rushed.

Now it ain’t often you see a grown man cry
But when Momma shook his hand, there was a tear in his eye.
We drove back in silence, with us kids startin’ to reason
There’s more than candy and toys to this season.
That was the year we ate pasta for Christmas
’Cause Momma had given away our turkey and fixin’s
To someone who needed it way more than we did
And that made a heck of an impression on this kid.

So this Christmas when all your family’s about
Remember that givin’, not gettin’, is what it’s about.

Betty Duizer-Logan of Amherst suggested the poem, Pasta For Christmas, written by Greg Simpson in 2008 for the Seasons of the Spirit resource publication (perhaps), and she is sending along her wishes for a Merry Christmas, and peace, good health and happiness in 2019 to all those folk who read this newsletter.
The last Presbytery meeting

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by JEANNETTE MORRIS
McCully/Cumberland Pastoral Charge

The last meeting of Chignecto Presbytery began in the sanctuary of Trinity-St. Stephen’s United Church on November 14, 2018. It was a time of worship and remembrance of past stories of Chignecto Presbytery. At noon, Chignecto Presbytery members, past and present, gathered in the church hall for a delicious turkey dinner.

Pictured around our table (Left side) Nellie Gilroy, her sister, Rev. Marion Lloy, Mary Ripley and Don Ripley. (Right side) Craig Dickson, Carol Shea, Jeannette Morris and Ed Weatherdon.

A Christmas message

When my mother passed 21 years ago I was going through her stuff and found an old notebook with articles and poems she had cut out and pasted in from bulletins, and tracts and other things. I use it when I look for some information or something to ground me. Here’s one I’d like to share—

“CHRISTMAS AND MISSIONS” by Ralph T. Nordlund.

Christ left His home in glory, His riches and His throne, To bring to earth the story Of grace for all His own.

He sailed the seas of Heaven, Debarked on Christmas Day; At port no room was given Save a humble bed of hay!

He was God’s missionary To evangelize the earth; And now His church makes merry And celebrates His birth.

’Tis fitting and in season To hail his birth anew; But more in line with reason His mission work to do.

May God bless you all this merry Christmas season.
I wish you all the best of Health and Happiness in 2019.
Ruth Kennedy - President Maritime Conference UCW
Camp Ta-Wa-Si will hold its AGM and regular meeting on Saturday, December 15, at our Camp Chair-lady Lynne Well’s home in Moncton.

I have heard from Lynne that our camp farm house now has a new steel roof and I hope to get a photo to share in the coming months with snow around our beautiful camp.

Cost came in around $9,500 and now we have a strong roof that will last for years and withstand the winds and salt spray from our Northumberland Straight.

Our three main buildings, The Barnacle which is all steel, our dinning hall and now our farmhouse all have a roof to last a lifetime of campers. Good news going forward with more campers expected to enjoy our beautiful camp next summer.

Thanks for all your groups and church support and help to make these projects a possibility.

Candle light for Advent

At our Salisbury Christmas UCW meeting our Roll Call Bible verse is usually a Christmas verse we like. I shared the Advent Candles.

During church Advent services we light candles, each candle has a different meaning in Christianity.

My daughter-in-law is from Germany and my oldest son, her husband was born in Germany and as an adult he returned and enjoyed an army tour of three years in Larr, Germany where he met Luiguard.

Their Advent candles:

- The first represents Isaiah and other prophets in the Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus. Our candle of (Hope)
- The second represents the Bible. Our candle of (Peace)
- The third represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. Our candle of (Joy)
- The fourth represents John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin, who told the people in Israel to get ready for Jesus’ teaching. Our Candle of (Love)
- The middle or separate candle is lit on Christmas Day and represents Jesus, the light of the world. In Germany this fifth candle is known as the ‘Heiligabend’ and is lit on Christmas Eve. (Our Christ Candle)

In many churches, the colour purple is used to signify the season of Advent. On the third Sunday, representing Mary, the colour is sometimes changes to pink or rose. I find this very interesting and wanted to share with you.

— LOIS BUDD
President, Salisbury UCW
Covenanting service held at Trinity United

November 18 the congregation of Trinity United Church, Riverview, NB held a Covenanting Service with the Rev. Janice MacLean.

Catherine Gaw represented Presbytery and the Rev. Stephen Brown shared the message.

Several members of the congregation took part in the service as well as the children and youth (pictured below) with special music by Sandra Alward.

Lunch was served including a cake with the United Church Crest. In the photo, right, Rev. MacLean is shown making the honourary first cut into the cake.

Christmas decorating took place November 24 at Trinity-United with members helping with the decorations. In the photos are church folk working to bring the sights and feel of the season into their sanctuary.
90th birthday celebrated

Submitted to ‘Spread The News’
by LINDA SWEEZEY
Trinity-Riverview United Church

On September 16 Mary Jessiman celebrated her 90th birthday and was joined by friends and relatives at her new home at Peoples Park Tower in Moncton.

Mary has been a longtime member of Bridgedale Pastoral Charge UCW. Here she is pictured with fellow unit member Linda Sweezeey.

A global Christmas

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by PAM HARRISON

In 1986 I visited the Holy Land and this was the beginning of a new, now old, family tradition. While in Bethlehem I purchased the manger, hand carved Christmas characters from olive wood—along with camels. On every trip thereafter I looked for a small animal that represented that nation I was visiting to bring home to the manger. Come Christmas I place the sheep from Australia, the polar bear from the Arctic, the penguin from Antarctica, the Lock Ness monster from Scotland, the British bull dog, the giraffe from Africa, the elephants from India, a mouse from Japan, a cow from Germany and so on —over 60 nations. This year I added the three children from Fatima, Portugal.

The story is—the three children were visited by the Holy mother on May 13,1917 as they were tending their flocks. The children named Lucia de Jesus, age 10, Francisco, age 9 and Jacinta Margo, age 7. They told their parents they saw “a lady more brilliant than the sun”. Every year millions of people from all over the world visit this location. In the gift shop I found small images of the children that would fit. (I hope you can see them at the front of the manger.)

I shared this tradition with my mother and sister, after every trip I would present the small little animal, along with a story, to them knowing in December we would be thinking of each other. What fun to add to the Nativity set and it became an interesting part of our family Christmas. My well organized sister kept record of what animal came from what country in what year!

Enjoy my nativity experience and the small animals and I share my prayer that peace will be present in all of the nations.
“To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.”

At the December 3rd UCW General meeting at St. Paul’s United in Riverview, members approved a number of year-end charitable donations and a substantial contribution to the budget of St. Paul’s. This was made possible by the efforts of many and successful annual fund raisers. In February the “New to You” clothing sale promises something for everyone with gently used clothing for men, women and children. We are always amazed that each spring the hall is overflowing with “treasures” for the Yard Sale. The “Spring Tea” held the end of May is a celebration of the season. This year the Fashion Show in October featured women from the congregation, modelling fashions and accessories from Centennial Gifts located at Peoples Park Towers. Many people took advantage of the wide variety of items at good prices for some early Christmas Shopping. The Fall Fair, with UCW conveners, is now a congregational event. Several other church groups and committees are able to raise funds for their programs and charitable work. Ongoing throughout the year is the Bridge Marathon, staffed mainly by UCW members.

In the past we have taken the “service” part of our purpose very seriously, a large part of our focus has been on fundraising. We have been good at it, and these annual events have become part of our church history and tradition.

As we look ahead we realize that we are entering a time of change. We are now facing what UCW Units all across the country have faced, we are an aging group, younger women although often willing to help when called upon, are not joining us. Many of our members cannot continue to be actively involved in these activities.

Two of our four units are seriously discerning their future. This past fall our units took turns holding regular unit meeting at Royal Court, a retirement living facility, where a number of St. Paul’s women are now residents. One of our units has made the decision to host all of their meetings at the facility in the new year and to extend an open invitation to anyone who is interested in attending. Another unit is weighing all of their options; should they close, join another unit as a group, scatter or stay together and meet in a new way.

As you look back at the busy year and forward to the future, join me in giving thanks not only for our ability to contribute financially to the work of the church, but for all that we are. Hold up and honour the time spent in study, the devotions shared and perhaps most importantly the fellowship and support we offer each other. May we learn to witness in new ways.

The women of St. Paul’s wish you all the blessings of this Holy season.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

United Church Women of Chignecto Presbyterial offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of...

OLIVE BURGESS, who passed away December 2, 2018, in Moncton, NB at the age of 101. She was a member of the former Wesley Memorial United Church, a member of Harrisville United Church, a Life Member of the UCW, member of the Church Board and an organizer of the Prayer Chain.

Those we hold closest to our hearts never truly leave us. They live on in the kindness they have shared and the love they brought into our lives.
Mitten tree fills at Central United

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by ANN BATEMAN
Central United Church UCW

Central United Church Women met at Camden Place Terrace Tea Room on November 21st for a Christmas Gathering. The meeting opened with a welcome followed by worship and a memorial remembering four women who had passed away during 2018. Grace was said and we all enjoyed lunch and a time of idol chit chat together.

The program was given by Central Hand Quilters telling of their history pictures of past and present were shown. A great time of remembering all that the quilters have done.

Grannie Soup night in Sackville

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by PAM HARRISON

The action in Sackville on Friday evening was shouting out “come join in the fun!”

The Steven Lewis Grandmothers Foundation is well represented in Sackville, a wonderful group of ladies organized a delicious GRANNIE SOUP event. Serving several delicious soups, over 15 different flavours, served with delicious rolls and a variety of sweets plus tea and coffee—donations only! They raised approximately $1,200. This will assist grandmothers around the world to raise their precious grandchildren, many whose children died in the HIV aids crises.

Just around the corner at Sackville United Church, Christmas cookies were in abundance. The first time ‘cookie walk’ was a delightful success. Everyone received a small white box to collect your choice of the finest Christmas cookies. The variety of cookies included gluten-free cookies and fudge. One lady said it well, “my Christmas cooking is easy this year”. We all agreed! Half the profits will be shared with the Sackville Food Bank.

Outside the snow swirled around the parking lots and streets; the Christmas spirit was alive and well as people wished each other a MERRY CHRISTMAS.
Observing the Season of Advent

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by BARBARA GROUNDWATER
Mountain View UCW

We all know that Advent is a time of preparation as we anticipate the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus, but how many of us get caught up in the “busyness” of preparing for Christmas and take all too little time to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas. We decorate, we shop for gifts, we bake – we prepare all the outward visible trappings of Christmas until we’re so exhausted mentally and physically that we have scarcely any energy or will left to work on preparing our hearts and minds for Christ’s birth.

This Christmas, let’s take a different approach. Let’s make preparing our hearts and minds the number one priority, and make everything else come second. We can begin our day with Bible reading and prayer. We can attend Christmas church services and invite others to attend with us.

Are we angry and unforgiving towards someone? Then we need to forgive and make peace in our hearts. We can take steps to ensure that others have what they need to be able to enjoy Christmas. Do they need food or clothing, or perhaps a visit so they won’t feel so alone? Are they going to be alone on Christmas Day? Perhaps we could invite them to join us for a meal. What kindnesses can we extend to those with whom we come in contact? Are these things not more important than focusing on the material aspects of the season for ourselves?

Remember the words of Jesus when he said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.

Visions UCW host Christmas supper

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by ANNA PETERS
Visions United Church UCW

Visions UCW invited the women of the congregation and community to a Christmas supper on Sunday, December 09 at 4:00. We had 30 women gather to share a delicious meal that included Turkey a la King and Jellied Cranberry Salad. There was a short program to begin with carols and monologues from Betty Türcott’s book – And She Said. There was lots of time for sharing and laughter.

For several years, we hosted a Christmas Tea and candle lighting at People’s Park Tower for some of the residents there who were from the former Humphrey Memorial congregation and others from the Sunny Brae area. This year we decided to bring the women of our new area together for fellowship. We are moving on to a new site so this may have been our last opportunity to have this group together in our current hall.
St. James UCW filled gift baskets for shut-ins

Submitted to “Spread The News”  
by JANE HOLLY  
St. James UCW, Petitcodiac NB

The St. James UCW of Petitcodiac met on December 11 for their monthly meeting and Christmas party.

Twelve members were present and following the meeting 15 gift baskets were filled with jam, fruit, baking and treats for shut-ins!

There were lots of laughs especially when the marshmallow stacking contest went slightly awry and became a marshmallow ‘stuffing’ contest! Our president Gwen Mahoney won with 9, yes 9 marshmallows stuffed in her mouth! Great job Gwen (and for those of you looking for a ringer for your next pie eating contest, she is available upon request)!

We ended the afternoon with a delicious snack and a gift exchange.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2019 from Petitcodiac!
Sharing a gift of comfort and warmth

Submitted to “Spread The News”  
by LOIS BUDD  
President, Salisbury UCW

Audrey is a senior of 89 years and so enjoys cuddling in her warm prayer shawl that our Salisbury UCW lady Doris Brown so lovingly made for her. It stays on her comfy chair to be there whenever she needs its warmth and comfort and sometimes goes for an afternoon nap on the couch with her.

Marilyn is a church friend, now in a battle with cancer. She will enjoy the comfort that Doris has provided for her with the gift of the prayer shawl on Wednesday when she goes back to Oncology for Chemo.

We are all so blessed to know Doris who is always giving of her time, her heart, her talents and her love with us and others in this and so many other ways. Audrey and Marilyn say a big thanks to her as they cuddle up and know they are warm and loved with this gift of softness.

Trinity-Shediac UCW host Friendship Tea

Submitted to “Spread The News”  
by MYRNA WARD  
President, Trinity United UCW, Shediac NB

On November 21, Trinity UCW Shediac, hosted a Friendship Tea for the local church women. We were delighted to welcome 40 women from churches in Murray Corner, Port Elgin, St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Shediac Bay Community Church, Centre Nouvelle Vie, and St. Martins in the Woods.

After a cup of tea, sandwiches and small cakes, Krystal LeBlanc from the Family Crisis Resource Center, Shediac presented a program on their soon-to-be new facility. She showed us a video of how the centre helps violence and abused persons. We had a most enjoyable afternoon.

On December 7, we held our closing meeting for this year at a local eating place and exchanged a small gift. We held a brief business meeting to discuss our usual Christmas contributions to local charities.

We extend best wishes to everyone to have a blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy New Year.
Sackville UCW Christmas Get-Together

Sackville UCW met at the Painted Pony Grill on Tuesday, December 4th, along with Rev. Lloyd and Jennifer Bruce and six other guests for their annual Christmas get-together. It was a pleasant evening and everyone enjoyed the delicious food.

Merry Christmas to all and we wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year!

Brenda Allen - UCW President, Sackville United

UCW group extends thanks to long-serving President and Treasurer

Submitted to “Spread The News”

by JEANNETTE MORRIS

Nappan-Maccan UCW

During the September meeting of the Nappan-Maccan UCW, we accepted with regret the resignation of our President for the past 23 years, Marilyn Kohout, and the resignation of our Treasurer for the past 23 years, Bona Ripley.

We extend our appreciation and gratitude to both of these women for their exceptional commitment and dedication to the work of the Nappan United Church. God’s work needs many hands and Marilyn excelled as our UCW leader. She always inspired us with her abundant energy, creative ideas and strong work ethic. It is absolutely amazing all that she has accomplished in uniting the women of the congregation and others in the community for the total mission of the Nappan United Church.

Bona did an incredible job keeping our finances in good order, right down to the penny! A big thank you to Bona for the many years she dedicated her time as our financial expert.

At our Dec. meeting, held at the home of Ruth Ripley, we were pleased to welcome our new UCW President Coral Harris, and our new UCW Treasurer Elsa Connolly. It is wonderful to know that these two capable young women will carry on the tremendous work of the Nappan-Maccan UCW.

In the picture below, from left to right are, Elsa Connolly, Marilyn Kohout, Bona Ripley, Coral Harris, Ruth Ripley, Carol Bureaux and Jeannette Morris. Absent members are Angela MacKay and Raylene Nash.

President, Coral Harris and Treasurer, Elsa Connolly, presented out-going UCW President and UCW Treasurer with gifts to express our sincere thanks for their 23 years of loyal service.
Scout leaders honoured

Mary and Don Ripley were recognized recently for their many years of leadership in the Scouting movement. They are shown here accepting a plaque commemorating 60 years spent with the First Fenwick Beavers, Cubs and Scouts during a special service at the Fenwick United Church.

Scout leaders and young people participated in a special church service at the Napan United Church which recognized and honored this couple and expressed appreciation for the use of the Fenwick United Church all these many years. Special thanks to Don, who along with his brother, started the Scout meetings at the Fenwick United Church 60 years ago.

Salisbury UCW plan winter activities

Just a note from Salisbury UCW to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2019.

It seems the things we planned for the past month were side-tracked. The Men in Black were to sing at the Church in November, but due to sickness and then a snow storm that day had to be cancelled. Not sure when it will be held, but will let you know when we can.

Our Christmas Carol Sing around the Village was replaced by the Village Tree Lighting and Carol Sing. That was good, as it gave us the chance to see others from the Village to exchange Christmas greetings.

We are planning to have our Soup Fests again for winter fellowship after services during the last Sundays in January, February and March. Keep that in mind if you are in the area one of those Sundays and would like to snack.

We will be going to Jordon Memorial Home on Friday for our monthly service and to pass Christmas Cheer to the shut-ins there with our Christmas cards and singing.

Until next year please take care.

— Janet Colpitts & Doris Brown
Salisbury UCW

Submitted to “Spread The News”
by JEANNETTE MORRIS

— Janet Colpitts & Doris Brown
Salisbury UCW
What’s Happening... Church events coming up in Chignecto

Good News From Home
Hillsborough United Church choir under the direction of Michael Land presents "Good News from Home" a Christmas Cantata on Friday, Dec 21 at 7 pm at the church 2891 Main Street, Hillsborough. All welcome!

Movie Night at Central United
The Affirming Committee of Central United Church presents the movie "Life Is Beautiful" in the Community Peace Centre Forum, 22 Church St. Moncton, Thursday, January 17th at 7 PM. Movie and snacks are free of charge. Come and bring a friend. Guido, who moves during the '30s from the country to a Tuscan town, where he is entranced by schoolteacher Dora. Leaping ahead to five years later, during WW II, Guido and Dora are married and have a son Giosue. After they are imprisoned in a concentration camp, Guido goes to elaborate lengths to keep his son from understanding the truth of their situation. Rating: PG-13 (for holocaust-related thematic elements) Genre: Comedy/Drama

Fall yard sale ‘a successful fundraiser’

Submitted to “Spread The News” by JEANNETTE MORRIS

The Nappan United Church’s Fall Yard Sale was a very successful fund-raiser.

Pictured right are workers Linda Long and Marilyn Kohout, below L-R, are Carol Bureaux, Bona Ripley, Elsa Connolly, Coral Harris, Dave Harris and Charlie Connolly

Other workers during the sale day (not pictured) are Jim Long, Bob Baker Raylene Nash, Marlene Embree, Angela MacKay, Marge Smith and Jeannette Morris.
A kitchen party

Submitted to “Spread The News” by PAM HARRISON

The Duchess of Sussex, Meghan, visited Grenville Tower after they experienced a big fire. She found women cooking for everyone in a community kitchen, the kitchen was buzzing with women of all ages including children. She put on an apron and pitched in to support these women and noted their efforts to serve delicious food to everyone. This resulted in a cookbook that sold 15,000 copies the first week.

As soon as the book reached Canada I pick up my very special book and leafed through every page. The story of the kitchen, pictures of the women and Meghan’s visit were on the opening pages. Then several pages of meals with stories. It touched my spirit and so I started passing the book around to friends with an invitation to join me for lunch on November 19th. I choose that date because it was the 1/2 year anniversary of the Royal Wedding. Each guest kept the book for a few days and selected a dish they would like to try and share with others. We had a wonderful selection.

Most of us had to buy a spice we had never used before so that was a fun adventure. Next we stretched our comfort zone by making something for the first time and sharing it with friends. Everything was delicious and we discussed two questions (1) would you make it again and (2) was it to your taste. There was a mixed response but for the most part we were pleased we tried. The popular winner was Toffy Apple Crumble, it was delicious and enjoyed by all. The big difference was boiling the apples! (Page 111, if you have the book)

Next we had a fun time talking about the new baby so we made guesses on the birthdate, gender, weight and name. We did not bet but all hope we are close to being correct.

As you can see, all women are from the United Church who live in communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Enjoy the pictures and try our favourite apple crumble (recipe next page).

If you like I will keep you posted on who guessed the baby facts correctly!

In the photo: Front, L-R, Elsie MacDonald, Carrie McCully, Elizabeth MacCurther, Raylene Nash. Back, Catherine Gaw, Crystal Willis, Pam Harrison. Above photos show the cookbook and some of its locally-tested recipes.
The chosen recipe
(See the story on P14)

MAMA JAY AND JAY JAY’S
TOFFEE APPLE CRUMBLE

4 large Granny Smith apples
200 g / 3/4 cup plus 2 tbsp. unsalted
butter, chilled and cut into small cubes
175 g/1 packed cup brown sugar
120 ml/1/2 cup heavy cream
large pinch of salt
150 g/1 cup plus 1 tbsp all-purpose flour

Preheat the oven to 400° C.
Peel and core the apples and cut into
3 cm/1-inch pieces. Place in a medium
pan with 2 tablespoons of water, cover
and cook over medium heat for 5-6 min-
utes, until just soft at the edges.
Transfer to a 25x20 cm/8-inch square
baking dish. Set aside.

Place half of the butter cubes and
half of the brown sugar in a heavy pan
over low heat for 2 minutes, until the
sugar has dissolved. Increase the heat to
medium and let bubble for 5-6 minutes,
stirring occasionally, until the mixture is
a dark toffee color. Add the cream and
salt, taking care as it will splatter, then
stir until well blended. Pour the caramel
over the apples and stir to coat all the
pieces.

Place the flour and the remaining
butter (ensuring it is very cold) in a
bowl. Using your fingertips, rub the
butter into the flour until the mixture
looks like coarse bread crumbs. Add the
remaining sugar and toss until well
blended. Sprinkle the crumble over the
apple mixture.

Bake for 30-35 minutes, until the top
is golden and the caramel is bubbling at
the edges. Leave to cool slightly before
serving.

(Although there was no name
attached to the recipe, this information
was included: When the mosque offered
the kitchen to the community, I would
come by and help out. It gives ladies a
place to relax, make some home-cooked
food and have a good girly catch-up.
I’m not much of a one for making
desserts, but I do enjoy them. This is a
random concoction that I made up —it’s
quick and easy—I like that!)

An ending, a beginning for
New Hope congregation

A final service for the congregation of New Hope Pastoral
Charge in Hopewell Hill, NB took place on Sunday, November
25, when the New Hope United Church bell was rang for the last
time to call people to worship. Members of Chignecto Presbytery
were present to lead in the service of decommissioning of the
church.

(As reported in the minutes of the Presbytery):
"Seventy-five people attended, and while it was the final service,
there was an air of thankfulness for what had been. The Rev. Alfred
Woodworth, Janet Hoar and the Rev. Val Chongva shared memo-
ries of their times in the church. The Rev. Peggy Reid presided, and
The Rev. Carol Mullin shared the reflection, with the choir from
Hillsborough United Church presenting a selection. The highlight
of the worship occurred when Doris Wells, one of the oldest mem-
ers of the congregation, along with Gerald Wells and Janet Hoar
opened the time capsule that had been placed in the cornerstone in
1930. Some water seepage had made the items a little worse for
wear, but the excitement in seeing them was palpable. Doris was
two or three when the cornerstone was laid, and though she does
not remember that event, she remembers the fire that destroyed the
original church. After a two-hour service, filled with laughter and
some tears, the gathering adjourned to the mental health clinic
across the road where a lunch had been prepared by the parents of
the local girl-guide troop."

(Also in the minutes of Chignecto Presbytery, the amalgama-
tion service has been recorded.):
"Sunday, December 2, the amalgamation of the New Hope
Pastoral Charge and the Hillsborough Pastoral Charge took place
at the Hillsborough United Church, Hillsborough, NB. Approximate-
lly sixty people gathered in worship, and promised to
support one another moving forward as a joint pastoral charge.
The Rev. Peggy Reid conducted the worship, sharing the reflection,
and the Rev. Carol Mullin and the Rev. Roland Hutchinson
were on hand to bring greetings from Chignecto Presbytery and
to shake hands with the members of New Hope who attended, to
welcome them into the fellowship of Hillsborough United
Church. Treasured items from New Hope – candle sticks, a table
cross, and a free-standing cross, were brought forward and pre-
sented to Hillsborough United Church. Communion was cele-
brated using the communion ware of New Hope United Church,
and Alma United Church. These churches were formerly con-
nected with the Alma/Albert Pastoral Charge. The service con-
cluded with much joy, and perhaps a little sadness. A reception
was held following the service."
Church anniversary service

On October 21, the congregation at Trinity-St. Stephen’s observed the 111th anniversary of the church building during Sunday worship service. In conversation time with the Sunday school children, Rev. Natasha Pearen led a tour around the sanctuary with the young folk, as she and they looked at plaques, wall hangings and pictures that hung on the walls and filled the windows, and in the noticing they revealed fragments of the history of the church and revived memories for the people setting in the pews. Following the service, cake was shared with those present. Shown on the right are Ida Roode and Rod Porter, who cut and helped served the cake.

Advent Season got started on December 1, when the congregation entered the sanctuary decorated with many lights, greenery, the creche, poinsettia plants, and a very tall (my guess it is a 14-footer) Christmas tree. All this was put in place by members of the choir and Friends Unlimited group, who gathered the day before to decorate the sanctuary and the hall, and share a pot-luck noon meal.

Rev. Natasha introduced the children to a “shepherd on a search” who is on a quest to discover the meaning of Christmas. Each Sunday during Advent the little doll, who the children named Michael, is discovered hiding somewhere in the sanctuary, and once found helps in sharing a Christmas message.

On December 16, in the afternoon, the performance of A Child’s Christmas in Wales, brought many from the congregation and community and from farther away places to fill the sanctuary and to hear the story by Welsh author Dylan Thomas, read in segments by CBC announce John Hancock of Halifax, and interspersed with Christmas songs, including “When Christmas Comes” and “Christmas Lullaby”, by the church choir and guests singers. The free-will offering gathered will go to support the town’s Food Assistance Network and the Benevolent Fund at the church.

The Music at Trinity Committee have two special musical events scheduled early in the new year, and believe those looking for gift-giving ideas may be interested in purchasing gift tickets to these not-to-be missed performances. On March 9, the Vancouver Chamber Choir is coming to perform at the church and on May 9 the Celtic band Rawlins Cross will be here. Check with the church office for more information.

UCW at Trinity-St. Stephen’s have been busy too, gathering on December 4 for a special luncheon, program and advent worship with women of the congregation, filling the mitten line with knitted items and the cupboards with food for Christmas Cheer, and delivering small gifts and greeting cards to the church members in residential and care facilitates or at home.

Our best wishes are being sent out to the UCWs in Chignecto for a wonderful Christmas and may your 2019 be a year filled with peace, joy, hope and love.

— Jean Smith, Trinity-St. Stephen’s UCW

A UCW Christmas meeting

Colpitts UCW was invited to join with the Salisbury UCW for a Sunday afternoon Christmas meeting. Four of us came, as well as some other Salisbury ladies who are not UCW. We admired the seasonal decor, and after the meeting we had “eats”. A good time was had from all that went on. Doris Brown took photos too! We say the Mizpah Benediction (“The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.”) at the close of our UCW meetings, as does Salisbury UCW. Another lady (not UCW) asked me about it, and I referred her to Gen. 31:49.

— Ruth Anne Waddy, Colpitts UCW

NOTICE

Lois Budd would like to clarify that the worship service printed in November’s issue of “Spread the News” for World Food Day was a service from the National Church Office which was revamped to use for a church sermon/reflection at Salisbury United. She explained, “Rev. Stephen gave us permission to use it and his changes however would also like it to reflect that the original came from our National Church Office and they should have the have credit for it when we use it locally.”
New global project adopted for UCW

United Church Women have a long tradition of supporting the ministries of The United Church of Canada through Mission & Service. Through Units, Presbyterials, Conference UCW’s and the NUCW the UCW in all configurations have been, and continue to be active and generous supporters of local ministry in their communities as well as joining together to work for peace and justice, supporting ministries throughout Canada and around the world.

Mission & Service is about God’s mission in the world and how The United Church of Canada participates in that mission. United Church Women have been outstanding in their generous contributions enabling global partnership, community ministry, social justice ministries, theological education and vocation, faith formation, local ministries and conference leadership.

Together:
- United Church Women pray about the issues and concerns they see around them
- United Church Women educate themselves and others on those issues and concerns
- United Church Women support the ministry of Mission & Service.
- United Church Women contribute designated funds that enable community and global partners to implement important projects.

In September, 2018 the National United Church Women adopted a global project implemented by United Church global partner Women for Change in Zambia. This project can be found in the Gifts with Vision Catalogue: https://www.giftswithvision.ca/project/remove-barriers-education

This project continues to reflect the long term UCW interest in and commitment to education beginning with the founding organizations of WMS and WA.

WOMEN FOR CHANGE, ZAMBIA
“Never accept poverty. Unite and fight it.”

Women for Change (WFC) is an NGO that works in rural communities in Zambia, focusing on social and economic changes that empower women and children. Established in 1992, WFC has grown into one of the most influential indigenous NGOs in Zambia. Women for Change has been a partner of The United Church of Canada since 1992

Project description
Access to education for everyone, regardless of income, is an essential part of securing greater justice, broad based participation in society and the eradication of poverty. The United Church, working with Mission & Service global partners, understands education is a basic human right and a critical part of the global strategy to end poverty and ensure prosperity for all people over the next 15 years. While education is key to development many children face significant barriers to education, and in many countries girls face multiple challenges.

Traditional attitudes towards women, poverty, early marriage, gender based violence, poverty and a choice to use scarce resources to educate boys rather than girls can all stand in the way of women and girls fully participating in education. When girls are denied opportunities for education it has lifelong implications for women and communities. It decreases family income, increases health risks and places women and girls at a higher risk of trafficking and exploitation. Accessible education for girls and women is an effective way to improve the lives of individual families as well as communities living in poverty.