



United Church Women



An occasional HamPack mailing designed to keep you informed of news and events for United Church Women in Hamilton Conference.

June, 2011

Waterloo Presbyterial

This will be my first Presbyterial report as Waterloo Presbyterial President

The theme I have chosen for the next two years is "Let Justice Flow Down," which comes from Amos 5:24. We will look at the Biblical, historical and present importance of justice work with a special focus on Canadian poverty. I am hoping that during this time we will be studying, learning and taking action.

While this is a difficult topic, I have heard that many of our UCW women are looking forward to learning more.

I have already chaired my first core Executive meeting. The women on the executive are fantastic people and I am really looking forward to working with them all.

I am also looking forward to chairing my first general meeting, which will be June 6 starting at 9:30, hosted by Barrie Hill United Church in Eramosa. Our guest speaker that morning will be Peter Clutterbuck from PovertyFreeOntario. This group has consulted widely with experts in the field as well as those living in conditions of poverty and has created workable strategies to eliminate deep poverty in Ontario and thereby improve living conditions for all of Ontario's citizens. I will give you more information on his topic in my next report.

*Catherine Stewart Savage
President, Waterloo Presbyterial UCW*

Hamilton Presbyterial

In recent months we've had the privilege of being challenged by United Church women (and one good man!) who shared stories that exemplified our theme - Works of Faith: Labours of Love! We find this

referenced in scripture: *We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1Thessalonians 1: 2 – 3 (NRSV)

Overseas Personnel, Karen & Bill Butt, told us about their life and work in Mozambique. Karen taught girls to become leaders among their own people, who in turn teach important health and life skills lessons in their villages where AIDS has decimated countless families. Bill's gifts in media put words and music into video format, celebrating and bringing a message of hope to those affected by AIDS. Thanks to the Mission and Service fund, this gifted couple made a difference in the world!

In early April, Brenda Jordan, a local United Church woman and novice public speaker, inspired those at our Annual Gathering, so capably and warmly hosted at Marshall Memorial United, Ancaster. Brenda talked of how, at age 47, she found the lump feared by women. She had breast cancer. Now, in her early 50s, Brenda is a world champion dragon boat racer! She is now a role model and support for others facing this devastating disease. Brenda's story of courage, determination, and never ever giving up drew cheers and applause throughout her animated talk, which closed with an encouraging standing ovation. What a difference she makes!

Veterinary research work in rural Kenya led to an unexpected venture for another United Church woman, our Annual Gathering theme speaker, Dr. Cate Dewey, Chair of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. In her work 'among the poorest of the poor,' Dr. Dewey began to notice children in large numbers who were not in school. She soon learned they were AIDS orphans who

for lack of a uniform and a pencil were unable to go to school. Thankfully, all of these children had homes with relatives, some of whom are elderly, but subsistence living on about one dollar a day did not stretch to cover school expenses. Providing food was a daily challenge.

Today, over 800 of these children are in school. One such school has 15 teachers for 1100 students. Three schools are now self-sustaining through the introduction of improved agricultural methods on adjoining land that provides food for students and needed revenue on a shared work basis. In this way, rural children are trained and better prepared to become self-sufficient in the future. All because one woman decided that she could not – and would not - walk away and do nothing!

Putting aside fears and misgivings about the potential of doing anything of significance, given the magnitude of the needs, a humbly, determined woman set out to found a grass-roots endeavor – The Children of Bukati - that put faith into action. Dr. Dewey's captivated listeners punctuated her compelling story with applause and offered a prolonged standing ovation at the close - a fitting tribute to a woman with a remarkable story! In this way, too, glory and honour was given to a God who, through willing people, works in wondrous ways to make a world of difference!

*Norene Anderson,
President, Hamilton Presbyterial UCW*

50th Anniversary of The United Church Women

July 23rd.-27th 2012

Place: Redeemer University College, Ancaster
Hosted by Hamilton Conference UCW

Theme: "Our Tapestry of Love" Colossians 2 v 2,3 suggest... *The Message bible.*

Registration available from your Presbyterial President or on Hamilton Conference web site:

www.hamconf.org. Click on "UCW 50." Registration limited so register early!

National celebration email address

ucw50@hotmail.ca (For enquiries only)

How UCW's can help

- Supply small items to put in totes
- **Wanted:** photos, current and from the past to make a DVD to show "snap-shots" of UCW at the National and other UCW events; send electronically to Joyce Osborne janlea@hurontel.on.ca or give to Conference UCW or Presbyterial UCW presidents, **before** September 2011

Support the UCW "50th" project... The Morogoro Training Centre in Tanzania. **The Centre** offers courses in basic skills development, home management, and family care, plus computer training and secretarial skills. Working with the Tanzanian M.O.H., the centre will train women on birthing techniques, nutrition, first aid. Women from remote and rural areas will be able to respond to the well being of their communities. Education of the negative effect of female genital mutilation will also be taught. The Morogoro Centre is hoping to train 750 women over a 3 year period. The cost for each women will be less than \$1,000, to cover travel, accommodation and food, a medical kit and instructors. This project is planned through National UCW in Partnership with Partners in Mission of our United Church.

It is hoped that all UCW members will unite in supporting this project. In July 2012 at the National 50th anniversary celebration, we will be presenting our gifts to the Morogoro Centre.

Submitted by Win Czum

**Hamilton Conference
United Church Women**

Annual Fall Retreat

**ALL Women of the Church are invited
to attend**

at

Five Oaks Centre

Friday, October 14th at 4:00 p.m.

to

Saturday, October 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Theme: "Worship and Work are One"

Facilitator: The Rev. Susan Shantz

Cost: \$105 - includes, dinner, breakfast, lunch, shared accommodation, programme.

Registration deadline, -September 30th 2011

Registrations available from Presbyterial UCW
Presidents