



Anglican Church Women - Diocese of Algoma

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Anglican Church Women in the Diocese of Algoma is to unite all women in promoting the love of Christ with their time, talents and resources.

Greetings to all Anglican Church Women of the Diocese:

What a great pleasure to meet so many of you at the annual. Thank you to the women of the Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin for hosting the 2010 annual. We extend our appreciation to everyone at the Church of the Ascension for their warm hospitality and joyful opening service. Marion Saunders was inspiring and we thank her for her time and talent. Thank you from your executive, the board and all the delegates and visitors.

Enid our Communication Chair will be mailing the newsletters, very shortly and I know she has lots of news from the annual to report on. I would like to introduce you to the Board via the photo below. We are pleased to welcome Pam Handley of Temiskaming who was elected Devotion Chair.

We look forward to her journey as she takes on this new responsibility. We give thanks and praise for Ingrid Koropeski's faithful and dedicated work over the last seven years.

The Mission 2010 Thank offering was presented at the opening service. I am very happy to share with you that the final gift was \$ 1859.34. I know that Joanna Henry and Zahara Mohamhad, of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, will be great full for your donations.

The Mission 2011 THANK OFFERING is Fight the Bite – Buy a Net. This is a grassroots project that works with African groups to provide nets to prevent Malaria. Sadly, in Africa a mother loses a child every 30 seconds to malaria. \$7.00 buys one net, which serves four people. \$350.00 will net an entire village. Your Deanery Presidents' have a wonderful plastic canvas project for each primary branch to share with their members for the 2011 thank offering gifts. These mite boxes will give you the opportunity to remember to give prayerful thanks for the many blessings we receive each day and to associate those prayers with stewardship of dimes, quarters, loonies & toonies (paper is okay).

I was honoured to have lunch with Past Presidents, Muriel Hankinson, Doreen Stadnyk, Gladys Abigail, Marilyn Schmidt, Verlie Toman and Life Member Emily Wood for lunch on Wednesday. What a wonderful source of information and wisdom for our Diocesan "ACW".

As one of the delegates said, "the women love to talk about money," and they did. Budgets are always challenging and historically most interesting. I am not sure if we do things because it is custom (we have always done it that way) or tradition (it is part of our constitution and by-laws). I have started to read budgets from previous years and the one thing that is most evident at this time is that we are having less and less income.



In 2002, the operating revenue was approximately \$21,000.00, with additional designated revenue for mission of \$11,000.00 from parish donations and the Margaret Wright table. Operating expenses were approximately \$15,500.00. Mission expenditures were Parish designated money \$9000.00 and to the Diocesan budget \$7000.00.

In 2010, the operating revenue was approximately \$17,000, with additional designated revenue for mission of \$4,000.00 from parish donations and the Margaret Wright table. The operating expenses were approximately \$11,000.00. The Mission expenditures included \$10,000.00 to the Diocesan budget and \$4,000.00 to designated recipients.

This will be a nice project for me, if I am able to locate more annual finances from archives. We have these 10 years of annual booklets shared by the executive who attended most of the meetings. Must admit, I am enjoying rereading reports and various contributions. May we never lose these reports. I will update you about the archives in a later report.

I had a busy May attending a wonderful Diocesan Synod, the National Presbyterian Women Gathering for four days in Toronto. That report follows as it was presented to Anglican Church Women of Canada. I look forward to this coming year.



Dates to Remember:

Fall Board Meeting September 25-26, 2011.

Spring Conference and Annual Meeting
Tuesday May 14 to 16, 2012
Deanery of Temiskaming

Anglican Church Woman's Sunday
Sunday May 20, 2012

My wish from the 2002 Annual booklet (*an oldie but still true*)

May the luck of the Irish always be at hand, and good friends always near you.

May each and every coming day, Bring some special joy to cheer you.

Blessings always

Jacquie

“Look In - Shout Out”

National Presbyterian Women`s Gathering

May 20th – 22nd, 2011

I was privileged to attend the National Presbyterian Women`s Gathering, to represent Anglican Church Women of Canada. I received a very warm and hospitable welcome, from many of the 600 women from around the world in attendance. The Presbyterian Church is small in numbers and finances compared to our Anglican Church in Canada; however, I cannot emphasize the mission work they are committed to worldwide. They had in attendance Missionaries they support from Japan (3), Korea (3) Indian (3) Africa (10) Scotland (1) and several of their aboriginal sisters from across Canada. Sessions were inspiring and very thought provoking. We have much to learn about Mission.



The keynote speaker was The Dr. Margaret Somerville, who lectures at Universities around the world on ethics and genetics. Her question was; “Should religion have a voice in the Public Square?” She spoke of euthanasia, abortions, new reproductive technology, designer babies, same sex marriages and transplanted tourism. We live in a secular society and various religions must share, as most of humanity does believe that “do unto others, as you would have others do unto you,” This was a thought provoking 1 ½-hour session. Dr. Somerville returned Saturday for another wonderful session on the importance of ALL children knowing their biological genetics. She spoke at length re Children’s rights, raising the questions on same gender parents, identity of sperm/ova donations, adoption (essential to have open adoptions) and cloning. Ending with the thought, “Genetics should do no harm to any child”. Yes another 1 ½-hour session. Two very challenging sessions to pray about but also to “Look In - Shout Out”.



Saturday afternoon: The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon, Principal of Knox College presented a workshop entitled “Reading the Scripture as Women.” Not only as women, do we read and interpret it differently but also women of different cultures have different interpretations. This made me think of World Day of Prayer and how sometimes, I do not understand the reasons for the stories. An example given was the interpretation of money in scripture, “Latin American women believe “money is the root of all evil” – North American women believe “love of money is the root of evil”. Dr. Gordon spoke of the authors of the Bible.

We believe men wrote them, as they seem to have a man’s perspective. Is it possible that the author of Hebrews was a woman? She left us with many questions and challenged us to read with suspicion, critical remembrance, proclamation, and imagination.

Women played a large and important part in everyday life during the time of Christ and even before in the Old Testament, (Numbers 27: 1-8) the four daughters of Zelophehad challenged Moses for their birthrights, since they had no brother. Many women are mentioned in the Bible, some well know, others not always by name, she challenged us to think of these women and their roles. Dr. Gordon had a strong historical, cultural presentation.

The next two sessions, I attended were led by Lori Ransom, a descendant from the Golden Lake tribe, located on the east side of Algonquin Park. Lori updated us on the Truth and Reconciliation process and the reason it takes time. She emphasized that the apology given 10 years ago, must continue to be part of the churches responsibility now by our actions, the healing process is not all about money. Aboriginals think and resolve differences by Sacred Circles. During a Sacred Circle, everyone may speak, is respected, no interruptions, listen, has no time limit, is all-inclusive and confidentiality is important. The Sacred Circle continues until healing and/or consensus is achieved. A Sacred Circle is the lifting up of prayer.

Pow Wows are held by many tribes: These are celebrations of thanksgiving to Earth, Sky, Water and Animals. Much dancing and drumming occur and each participant wears their colourful regalia. A Pow Wow is a wonderful celebration and I encourage everyone to attend such a happy occasion, it is a day of thanksgiving and praise.

We have so much to learn from our aboriginal families.

I attended three banquets:

Friday was the welcome banquet, and I had the opportunity to bring greetings from all my Anglican sisters across this nation.

Saturday I attended with the international guests a wonderful banquet at the Korean Community Church in Vaughan. We enjoyed Korean food prepared by the women and men of the Church and were entertained by the Vaughan Men's Choir, a beautiful young lady on a Korean musical instrument and a tenor and soprano. This was a very joyful evening of fellowship.

Sunday was a Celebration banquet, back at the hotel and the guest speaker was Stevie Cameron, who has written a book about the women who were the victims of Robert Pickton. This was a in depth approach to the women as people, who loved, prayed, had families but were not listened to when things went wrong.

During the sessions, we were led in inspiring, joyful songs of praise by the Rev. Glen Soderholm and his praise team of musicians.

Sunday morning worship was an International event with readers from various countries and the Rev. Paulette Brown preaching about some women. Rev Brown's work is in the inner city of Toronto and she has enabled leadership, resilience and hope in those children and youth. I must share with you the offering time led by 10 women from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria. The offering was in support of the innovative and comprehensive program to educate girls in Afghanistan. This offering was collected in the African Way – singing and dancing by everyone as the individually moved to the front of the hall to present their gifts – yes it took a half hour but the gifts totalled \$14, 500.00 . These women believe in Mission.

Monday morning ended with the Rev. Margaret Mullin speaking to us about her journey to find her ancestral aboriginal rights and her continuing work as an elder with the Inner City Mission of Winnipeg. After six years of study, she was designated an elder and given her aboriginal name, "Thundering Eagle Woman" (a strong woman). She is passionate about her work and calling and she reminded us, "God calls us to put into action the apology. "

Thank you to our President Terri Parrill of the National Anglican Church Women of Canada, who invited me to attend this conference. It was a joyous and inspiring occasion.

Respectfully Submitted

Jacquie Howell, President
Diocese of Algoma,
Anglican Church Women

