

WMS Caring and Sharing Newsletter

A Collection of Updates from the Women's Missionary Society of BC

Compiled by Danielle danielledemerse@gmail.com

November 2011

B. C. Synodical

Betty McLagan

The Annual meeting of the BC Synodical will be at the Korean Church, 15964, 88th Avenue, on Thursday March 22, 2012. Registration & coffee begin at 9:00 AM and the meeting starts at 9:30 AM. Lunch will be served at 12 o'clock and we'll close at 2:30 PM so people can get home before dark. The executive will meet Wednesday afternoon and will deal with the majority of the business as was requested in the evaluations from the last meeting. Hence there will be no long business meeting. We are hoping by March the new regional staff person will be in place and will be with us. The recommendation for the new staff person is going to Synod in Prince George, October 14-16. There will be lots of singing as requested, so do make plans to attend.

A note: Betty received news on Friday morning that Berna Porter in the Kamloops Presbyterial had lung surgery. Prayers for her and those around her are gratefully appreciated.

Amy Chwojka

Vancouver Island Presbyterial

The Vancouver Island Presbyterial held its Fall Rally in Sooke Sept. 20th. Rev. Laura Kavanagh from Knox Presbyterian Church, Victoria, presented a power point on her 2011 visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the afternoon Rev. Al Tysick spoke on his work and transition from **OUR PLACE** to **THE DANDELION SOCIETY** in Victoria. Photos on posters showed Knox Sooke's Strawberry Tea were featured. Knitting was collected. A beautiful day made travelling easier for all who came from Port Alberni, Parksville and Victoria.

Westminster Presbyterial Fall Rally 2011

Women who wanted to hear what "LOOK IN – SHOUT OUT" was all about came to the Westminster Presbyterial Fall Rally held at Calvin Church, Abbotsford on September 14th. There were 32 women from 8 churches present plus one woman from the Han-Ca West Presbytery.

Devotions were led by Calvin Church's new minister, the Rev. Blair Bertrand, who reminded us that God's kingdom is built brick by brick. Hm, yes, the WMS knows about "bricks". The offering taken will be sent to the Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi towards the cost of a hospital bed.

A short business meeting was followed by a YOGA STRETCH to the Lord's Prayer. Three women who had been at the National Women's Gathering in May spoke about their experiences there. Comments were mostly very favourable and whetted the appetites of some others to attend the next gathering.

After lunch the Rev. Mary Fontaine, Director of Hummingbird Ministries, a mission outreach of the Presbytery of Westminster to First Nation's people in the greater Vancouver area, spoke. Mary is the first indigenous woman to be elected to the Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches which met in Geneva in May. For those of us who know very little about the WCRC it was interesting to learn that the organization represents 230 churches in 108 countries and works in areas such as unity and justice, the understanding of unity being based on the traditions and theology of the Reformation, church leadership development, action in climate change, women's rights, inter-faith understanding and greater connections between churches.

From Sheila Jakus

Molly Doka WMS Group

Here is what Molly Doka WMS Group in White Rock is doing. For Moment for Mission next week, we are going to talk about the plight of the refugees in Montreal. Then we are passing out little cotton mitts, which had been made many years ago and recently found in a cupboard! In the mitts will be a penny, encouraging all in the congregation to add to that. They are going to be asked to return the mitts in a month. I will let you know the results.

Rev Clara Kim is the president of the recently formed Han Ca group. These women have always given generously to missions of their choice. Now Clara can keep them informed of the WMS ones.

Clara has an interesting outreach in her own church in Cloverdale. She feeds the "friends outside" - the homeless and needy. Her mission was written up in the Cloverdale and Peace Arch newspapers, and she has been interviewed on CBC radio. Betty Siverns is now vice president of Council. Congratulations!

Barb Marshall

St. Andrews, Newton WMS

Hi Everyone, Our Ladies Aid at St Andrew's Newton has decided to donate 50 Presbyterian Calendars to Rev. Bruce Cairnie the Presbyterian Chaplain to Matsqui prison. He could use more, so if you get **ANY** extra 2012 Calendars, this year he could use them. Bruce is also looking for Birthday cards, Christmas cards, and mother's day cards. **Westminster Presbytery**, if you have cards please give them to your rep elder. If Bruce is not there I will see that he gets them. This is a mission that any one of us can do. Thanks in advance.

Mary Fontaine

Humming Bird Ministries

Hummingbird Ministries is having their Fall Festival, "Peace through the Arts". It is a festival created by aboriginal people, and is supported by the Presbyterian Church in Canada through the Native Ministries' Healing and Reconciliation Fund.

"While churches and the government struggle with how to animate the "words" of their apologies, here Aboriginal people are responding to the PCC appeal for Healing & Reconciliation. *Through the Arts*, they are building friendships across cultural and religious barriers and striving for Peace with the Church."

This festival takes place FRIDAY, Nov 4: 6:30 pm - 9 PM and Saturday, Nov 5: 11 AM - 6:30 PM, at South Delta Baptist Church, Tsawwassen, BC (1988 56 Street - Delta, BC) and will feature inter-cultural performances in music, drama, poetry & dance. Admission is by donation.

Contact info -

Phone: 604 612 5577,

Email: hummingbird.ministries@shaw.ca

Website: hummingbirdministries.ca

Attached to this newsletter is a printable poster about this event for circulation purposes.

Also from Mary Fontaine is information with respect to the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), their web site is www.wcrc.ch. The WCRC brings together 80 million Reformed Christians in 108 countries around the world - united in their commitment to mission, church unity, and justice. WCRC links Presbyterian, Reformed, Congregational, Waldensian, United and Uniting churches.

You can go to <http://www.presbyterian.ca/donate/wcrc> and make donations at any time, or mail a cheque to the PCC/financial services, and mark it clearly for WCRC - then you will receive you income tax receipt.

Knox, Port Alberni

Sandra Smith

CHURCH BAZAARS

If you are like most of us today, you support re-use and recycling of many unwanted items. Often I pass along useful things or re-gift nicer items to my family which I feel would be appreciated. I really enjoy shopping at our church bazaars where many quality items are donated by members of our congregation who are downsizing their homes. But I did not realize how obvious my actions were until we had a recent summer visit from our seven year old grandson.

We had congratulated him on completing Grade 1 and told him he'd enjoy going into Grade 2. His eyes lit up as he then announced to all of us that he will need a new backpack for school in the fall.

He finished with, "And I don't want one from the church bazaar!"