

ALGOMA PRESBYTERIAL UCW REPORT TO PRESBYTERY APRIL 16, 2011

Algoma holds 4 Gatherings per year, rotating to the various churches for hosting. Our annual meeting was held in March with just over 50 women in attendance. We held a candle-lit memorial service for 29 UCW women who had passed away in 2010. We were able to donate the offering of \$555.50 to our guests from the Sault's Soup Kitchen Community Centre. The women really responded to their self-written and performed play "In My Shoes".

Our next gathering is Sat. May 7th at Desbarats United Church, with Cloudslee providing worship. The guest speaker is double-lung transplant recipient Christina Foster, who lives in the Sault. She will be speaking about her successful transplant, life since, and the Trillium Gift for Life organ and tissue donation program. All women are welcome - you don't have to be a member of UCW to attend any of our gatherings, but you do have to pre-register if you want to get fed!

Three women from Algoma are on the London Conference Executive, with Clare Walker as First Vice President and Heddys Stevenson as World Outreach Committee Chair, plus myself representing Algoma (1 of 8 Presbyterials). Our local Executive is missing only one position-Vice President. We will host the Annual London Conference UCW meeting in Algoma in April 2015, during Clare's term as President.

There are currently 14 UCW units in Algoma, (8 churches without), with 302 members registered. The budget for 2011 is \$4,739.00. We were one of the very few Presbyterials that added a unit (Iron Bridge) last year, as many others are closing. We made donations of \$1,000 each to the relief efforts in Haiti and Pakistan through the WDR fund. We also supported the national UCW communications strategy effort so we might be better informed of our work, programs and events. (\$300)

The M&S UCW goal for Algoma last year was to raise \$12,700, which was surpassed, with a total of \$17, 573 raised, as per Jan. 21, 2011 London Conference M&S Fund statement. Congratulations to all those who support the UCW work in their congregations and communities. Fundraising in local congregations is a major activity of the UCWs. UCWs are reminded to ensure funds to top up their congregation's M&S givings are credited to the UCW so that we might get a real sense of the national UCW support.

2012 marks the 50th Anniversary of UCW. The national celebration conference will be held in Ancaster, in Hamilton Conference, July 23-27. At least 3 Algoma women have registered already. Limits are set by Conference so that there is fair opportunity for UCW members from across the country to attend. (45th was in Cornerbrook, NF and sold out quickly.) A goal is set to raise \$50,000 nationally for an anniversary gift to M&S for the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Tanzania to train 250 maternal health care workers per year over 3 years. Total cost would be \$528,000 for the full 3-year training program. Fundraising ideas will shared at our next local Gathering.

Preparations for London Conference's Annual meeting May 27-29 are well in hand. Units have been donating cloth serviettes and are taste testing cookies now. (gluten-free and diabetic as well as nut-free-aware). Scheduling of workers for break preparation will be completed soon.

Marnie McDonough, President
Algoma UCW Presbyterial

