

Remembering, with Appreciation ***DUCC National Gathering 2011***

Sacred Spirit, we give thanks for these sisters and brothers we have known.
Each one brought a touch of your light into the world.
Each one brought light in a different way, and in a different place.
Among them we find lovers of life, risk-takers, nurturers,
questioners, trouble-makers, visionaries,
and gifts of persistence, generosity, hospitality.
Hearing these stories we are reminded of our heritage.
We are encouraged, and we are thankful.
Amen

Charles Frederick Boorman Commissioned 1978 1923-2010

During fifty years of social ministry in Hamilton, Charles began his work with the Salvation Army and then became part of the United Church. He came to diaconal ministry having been commissioned as a certified employed churchman. Later, in keeping with changing church policy, he was named a diaconal minister. With the United Church, he served as a hospital chaplain and later as chaplain and counsellor with the Police Department.

Florence Margaret Butler Designated 1951 1923-2011

While a student at the United Church Training School, Florence had a summer placement at Leask Saskatchewan. She met her partner George, also from Leask, at Bloor Street United Church in Toronto. When they married in 1951, after graduation, Florence was “disjoined”. But while George trained for ministry at Queen’s, Florence coordinated the work of the student charge in George’s absence. Moving to Alberta, wherever George was in ministry, Florence’s training and gifts were generously given. And her vision went far beyond the life and work of any congregation; it was her strong belief that the church exists to serve the needs of the world, not just the “saints” as Paul called them.

Evelyne “Evie” Gilmour Commissioned 1994 1940-2011

While teaching in Toronto, Evie became involved in community ministry through her church, and eventually enrolled in a Social Services program at Ryerson University. After her marriage to Lorne Hefflefinger, the family eventually moved to the Edmonton area, and when the Western Field-based Diaconal Program began at St. Stephen’s College, Evie was ready for it. After commissioning to diaconal ministry she worked in a congregation, at the Adult Learning Centre, and with the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation. Evie was diagnosed with MS and as it progressed, she was unable to continue working. Conversations with Evie always revealed the value of family and friends, a passion for life, and a passion for social ministry.

Frederick George Holberton Commissioned 1969 1920-2010

After many years as an active layman in his congregation and presbytery and with the Banff Men’s Conference, Fred was commissioned as a certified employed churchman. Later, as

church policy evolved, he was named a diaconal minister. He served congregations in Edmonton, Grande Prairie and several in Calgary where he retired. To thousands of men who attended the Banff Men's Conference over 53 years he was affectionately known as "Mr. Banff". Fred was also a historian, compiling histories of the Tuxis Parliament and the Banff Men's Conference.

Donalda A. Jardine Designated 1937 1908-2011

Donald was designated a deaconess by Maritime Conference in 1937. Her first position was in educational ministry in Glace Bay after which she served in several positions until her retirement in Toronto. In the later years of her retirement and until her death at 102, Donalda always appreciated visits from current CCS staff. She loved to recall her student days. For many years she held the distinction of being the oldest living graduate of what is now the Centre for Christian Studies. A memorial service was held in Toronto and burial took place in the family plot on Chatham NB.

Jean B. Kellerman Commissioned as Missionary 1946 1919-2010

Jean worked as overseas personnel for 30 years, for a short time in China and then in Japan, first with the EUB denomination and then with the United Church. After returning to Canada, her congregation was Calvary Memorial in Kitchener, where she was in ministry before retirement. During this time she met and influenced many people with her passion for the mission of the church. Later she was named Minister Emerita.

Joyce Margaret (Blenkarn) Lockhart Commissioned 1979 1929-2010

Joyce's first career was as a legal secretary. Later in her life she fulfilled the long-held dream of preparing for ordered ministry. The main aspect of Joyce's ministry was hospital chaplaincy in Toronto: Suunbrook and later St. Michael's, and her personal gifts were well suited to this work. She had a warm smile, and was able to form a relationship with people quickly. But she was also in touch with congregations, providing either part-time ministry or supply while in ministry. In her retirement she was active in worship and leading Bible studies in her congregation at Bridgenorth.

Alice Margaret Read Commissioned as Missionary 1955, Commissioned to D.M. 1982
1930-2011

Margaret graduated from the United Church Training School in 1955. Shortly afterwards, she and Eric were married and were appointed to serve the church in Zambia. Back in Canada after ten years, they served pastoral charges in Ontario and Alberta. In 1982, Margaret was commissioned to diaconal ministry where she worked in congregational ministry in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Marilyn Anderson Corkum, friend and diaconal colleague, was one of the ministers who presided at her funeral. In the service, reference was made to the strength, compassion and courage that Margaret brought to her ministry and her life.

Daphne Rogers Designated 1959 1930-2009

Daphne's ministry involved 35 years teaching in church schools in Japan where she was much loved by students and friends. After returning to Canada Daphne was active in the ministry of

Knox-Metropolitan in Edmonton and in the presbytery, especially in areas of local and world mission. She also volunteered with the Adult Learning Centre. When she moved to assisted living, she was an active participant and always friendly and helpful to staff and other residents. Her UCTS classmates and her friends always knew her as a good “connector” – keeping track of people and being in communication through the years. (For a longer biography <http://uccdeaconesshistory.ca/list/by-person/daphne-rogers/>)

May Sanders Designated 1972 1941- 2009

May, originally from Dumfermline Scotland, began ministry as a diaconal minister in Bay of Quinte Conference and after further study at Queen’s Theological School she was ordained. May then moved to Alberta where she served mostly in chaplaincy positions in Edmonton, but also in congregational ministry. In her experience with cancer, May talked about “living with cancer” rather than dying of it; those close to her say her laughter was present until the last.

Mary Lou (Carter) Shorthill Commissioned 1995 1945-2010

After many years as a public school teacher, Mary Lou began studies at the Centre for Christian Studies. Her ministry was first in Stanstead Quebec, and later in congregations in Seaway Valley Presbytery. She faithfully connected with and supported those who were experiencing both the joys and difficult times of life. Her friends and all who knew her remember as bringing colour, energy and hospitality to whatever she was doing. Classmates Elaine Beattie and Barbara Curzon presided at her funeral.

Betty (Bowman) Syer Designated 1952 1917-2008

Born in Saskatchewan, raised in Alberta and British Columbia, Betty began studies at the United Church Training School in 1945. After graduation, she accepted a position in Trail BC as lay supply, and later moved to Consort, Alberta. In 1952 she was designated a deaconess by Alberta Conference. When Betty married, she was one of the women who was disjoined. Her ministry then was largely in congregations where her spouse Keith was serving, where she is well remembered as a gifted wise woman and a great story-teller.

Sylvia Marion (Reynolds) Thompson Commissioned 1989 1943-2009

Sylvia’ ministry took place in many communities in Saskatchewan. Wherever she was in ministry she touched many lives and would build a supportive network of friends and colleagues. And always, she offered her energy and resources supporting her passion for justice - locally and globally. In the last few years, after she was diagnosed with ALS, her ongoing struggle for her health and her unwavering faith were an inspiration to all.

Prepared by Dorothy Naylor