



## Wesley-Knox United Church Women

With the church building being closed because of coronavirus restrictions, there's not much by way of upcoming events!

I would like to issue a challenge - take your UCW directory, open at random and call someone! Anyone! While the church building is closed and we are unable to physically get together, there is all the more reason to keep in touch with each other 😊

When calling someone I don't know very well, I might say, for example, "Hello, this is Ann Stokes from UCW. I just called to say hello". We are all feeling isolated and more than a little afraid, but we are all United Church Women, we all have lots of things in common once we start talking. We all have the ability to pick each other up! Why not set a goal to call one or two people every day?

Keep safe. Look after yourselves and keep in touch with each other!

Ann Stokes

*May the Lord watch between me and thee  
while we are apart one from the other.*



UCW members and friends can often be found working together in the church kitchen where we prepare the apple pies, meat pies, and lots of other goodies that we sell to support the work of Wesley-Knox, the national church, and a host of outside agencies.

Why not come and join us?

keep scrolling....

## Women for Change, Zambia: Bursary Program for Women and Girls

For the next two years, United Church Women across Canada will support Women for Change as they work to reduce dropout rates for girls. Learn more about the project in this [blog post](#).

Access to education for everyone, regardless of income, is an essential part of securing greater justice, broad-based participation in society, and the eradication of poverty. Many children, particularly girls, face significant barriers to education. Women for Change, a Mission & Service partner in Zambia, is working to keep girls in Zambia in school.



## Some Recent Events...

### Spring Fashion Show

Unit 1 hosted a wonderful fashion show in April! Here is a copy of the article from the Wortley Villager.

#### ***Fabulous Finds at Wesley-Knox Spring Fashion Show*** *by Debra Eppel*

On Friday April 12, Wesley-Knox United Church hosted a fun evening of fashion and shopping. The *Women's Group of Wesley-Knox* presented a parade of spring fashions from *Fabulous Finds Boutique with Natalie*, accessorized with purses from *Poppies and Peonies* and jewelry from *Magnolia and Vine*.

Natalie Ganoglu of *Fabulous Finds Boutique with Natalie* has a showroom in her own home, open by appointment only. She also has many pop up boutiques and fashion show fundraisers. An Old South resident, she is always willing to give back to her community.

The evening started with piano music by Richard Yake, followed by the fashions, modeled by women of the church. The show presented on-trend fashions with classic pieces, starting with easy to wear casual then moving on to semi-formal outfits. The hot colour for 2019 is coral, which was shown in many outfits. The Bohemian style is also popular, along with big flowers, stripes and lace. Boleros, shrugs and shawls are a season hit to cover shoulders and add warmth to cool evenings. Bamboo is the new fibre this spring to keep you cool and comfortable.

After the parade of fashion, the ladies headed for the shopping hall, where clothing, jewellery, purses and beauty products could be purchased. Home baking and refreshments were also served.

Wesley-Knox United Church is a community church located on Askin Street in Old South. The church is very active in fundraising for worthy causes. The money raised at this fashion show event will go to help local London charities. Wesley-Knox United Church invites the public to come and be part of our community.



In January, Unit One helped prepare a lovely meal for 50-60 people for the **Bridges Out of Poverty / Circles** program that helps people who are struggling, by providing a good meal and fellowship.

We had a talk from Carolyn Smale of **Anova**, that's **formerly Women's Community House**. on Elder Abuse and Keeping Yourself Safe.

In May, Unit Four had a talk and slideshow from **Fanshawe Nursery**, who spoke to us on "A Day In The Country". They help people with disabilities to stay in their homes by going out and helping them with their gardening. You can also go out to visit their gardens and walk through the vast property.

## The Bread Not Stones Initiative

In 2019, 1,420,510 children in Canada are living in poverty. "Bread Not Stones" is a critical United Church of Canada initiative to raise awareness and advocate with all levels of government to eradicate child poverty in Canada. The name is taken from Matthew, chapter 7, verse 9: "If a child asks for bread, who among us would give that child a stone." The United Church Women wholeheartedly supported Bread Not Stones as their 5-year national project from 2014-2018. This project, created for all members and adherents of the church, is currently led by Region 7 Division of Social Justice.



**Rag Dolls of Hope**, created by Carolyn Pogue and the UCW women of Alberta, became the project's powerful symbols. Every doll represents a child living in poverty in Canada. They touch hearts and speak volumes. Their certificates state what children in poverty and their families need most: Affordable housing, food security, affordable child care, a living wage and a well-funded national strategy. These dolls are not for children. They're presented, as compelling reminders, to politicians and others of influence who direct government funding.

In April of 2015, **Linda Woods, of Wesley-Knox United and Laurel Kenney of First St. Andrews**, began their Bread not Stones Initiative in London Conference (Region 7). They soon expanded this project nationally. Special thanks to **Ann Stokes**, doll-maker extraordinaire, who has created more than 300 Dolls of Hope! **Liz Cooper, Cora Campbell, Eileen Cook** and so many others at Wesley-Knox and beyond have also contributed countless dolls. The Bread not Stones website: [www.endchildpoverty.ca](http://www.endchildpoverty.ca) is a great source of photos and information. **Kevin White**, a brilliant Wesley-Knox singer-songwriter, wrote and recorded the beautiful "Bread Not Stones" song. **Roxanne Andrighetti**, vocalist extraordinaire, joined Kevin on the recording. To listen, click [HERE](#).

During the past 4 years, Linda and Laurel have spoken on approximately **85 occasions**. Their project has been featured in the United Church Observer, Mandate magazine, several newspapers, and on the Dish with Donald television show on Rogers TV.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with "Jack" and Linda



Perry Bellegarde, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, with "Faith"

**They've met with approximately 60 politicians**, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Perry Bellegarde, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

They've also addressed the **London Mayor and Council** and in November 2016, invited 13 United Church delegates to join them when they were hosted at the **Ontario legislature**. There, 107 of their Dolls of Hope were delivered to every MPP's desk.



London Mayor Matt Brown and Council Members receive Dolls of Hope from Ann, Laurel and Linda



Gov.t of Ontario Liberal Caucus with their Dolls of Hope, joined by 15 United Church Representatives

On November 21, 2017, Bread Not Stones was hosted by the All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus at a very successful Breakfast and Panel Discussion. 360 Dolls of Hope from across Canada were distributed to every MP and a number of Senators. MP Kate Young delivered a powerful [videoed statement](#) in the House of Commons about the work of Bread Not Stones. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a [special video](#), also recognized the vital work of their project.

Federal MPs on Parliament Hill with their Dolls of Hope



The continuous advocacy of Bread Not Stones, along with that of many others, has helped produce exceptional results. In the past 4 years, all levels of government have together invested billions of dollars in critical programs to help lift children out of poverty. **The 7 most important federal government actions** are listed [here](#).



Although the UCW's 5-year Bread not Stones Initiative has come to a close, Linda and Laurel continue to carry out this project's vital work through the Region 7 Social Justice Division. In February 2019, Linda Woods and an invaluable team of helpers created "Sunshine", a very special Doll of Hope, as a gift to Sesame Street to honour its powerful project focused on the 2.5 million homeless children living in the U.S.A.

**The Wesley-Knox UCW Facebook Page!**  
Keep up on all the latest happenings! Visit it [here](#)!



**UCW Executive 2018 Annual Report**  
The full report is available as a PDF [here](#).



In addition to the information on this page, UCW also has a Public **Facebook** page [here](#). For other information about UCW, please contact UCW President **Ann Stokes** on 226-700-0923 or [annstokes@outlook.com](mailto:annstokes@outlook.com)