



**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

**WEST TORONTO PRESBYTERIAL NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2015**



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Fall has arrived!! Are we ready? Have you been able to change your mind from “summer mode” to “fall mode”? I have a lot of trouble doing this most years as it is so much more relaxed in the summer time and so immediately very busy in the fall. My brain stays muddled for weeks after the beginning of September!

If this happens to you (and I *know* it happens to me) we need a pick-me-up or something that will jolt us into the new season – perhaps a Rally Day, or special event, or a planning session would help.

In the WMS Presbyterial we have a Fall Rally that is planned each year that we hope will tweak people's interest and help them start up their Groups with enthusiasm. Your Executive met the second Saturday of September to plan activities for the year and to start thinking about their Groups, our Presbyterial events and the Annual Meeting.

Our Fall Rally is Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Humber Heights PC where our special presenter will be Poonam Saini from Youth Without Shelter. Once again, we will have our Christmas Dinner gathering at Runnymede PC on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 9 p.m. Our Annual Meeting will be on March 19<sup>th</sup> and our speaker will be Rev. Deb Rapport from Arise Ministries. This is a morning meeting that ends with a lovely lunch. Venue – tba. Our Spring Gathering is planned for Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. This day is generally one with a speaker or activity in the morning and a pot-luck lunch following. Watch for the planning details.

One of the reasons I have felt so muddled this fall is that I came home from a family vacation in England, Scotland and Wales only to jump back on an airplane nine days later to go to Ghana for TUMEKUTANA, an African Presbyterian Women's Gathering held at Abokobi Presbyterian Women Centre just outside Accra. TUMEKUTANA is a Swahili word meaning “We have come together” and so we did – women from 22 different African countries as well as women from Scotland, the USA and Sarah Kim and I from Canada. We met, danced, sang, prayed and cried together over a week. We also visited the Elmina (Slave) Castle, west, along the coast about 160 km from Accra. This was the start of a busy week and set the tone for the theme “Freedom in Christ: From Slavery to Empowerment”.

Please see the Fall / Christmas Glad Tidings magazine for a detailed report of our activities. Sarah and I promised to share the stories of our African sisters. They have so many more problems within and without their Church. Our prayers are with them.

I hope you will join us for as many activities as you can, Our Groups are getting smaller but women are the solid backbone on which so much of our Church activities depend. We need to be in community and to support one another. (A couple of pictures from my trip to Ghana are printed on page 2)

Yours in Christ,  
Janet Brewer.

## President's Message (continued)



Plaque in Elmina Castle



TUMEKUTANA parade of women in their national dress

## FROM THE TREASURER

Our Mission Objective for 2015 is \$7,800. As of September 11<sup>th</sup>, we have sent \$2,700.00 to the National Office of the Women's Missionary Society, so we have a way to go in order to meet our objective. Thank you to all groups who have sent donations.

I will be closing the financial books for 2015 on Friday **December 18th** so please make sure that all cheques for the calendar year are received by me by that date. All cheques should be made payable to "**West Toronto Presbyterial (WMS)**".

Life Membership (\$50), Honorary (\$100), Certificates of Recognition (\$25) and In Memoriam Certificates (\$50) are available for purchase from me at any time. All monies received for certificates are used to help us reach our mission objective for the year.

CHRISTMAS DINNER  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
Runnymede Presbyterian  
Church (680 Annette St.)  
6:00 P.M. - Gathering time  
6:30 p.m. - Dinner  
7:30 p.m. - Worship, Entertainment & Carol  
Singing

*ANNUAL MEETING*  
*SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH*  
*VENUE - tba*  
*Speaker—Rev. Deb Rapport*  
*(ARISE MINISTRY)*  
*9:00 a.m. start and will finish with*  
*lunch.*

**SPRING GATHERING**  
Hold the date -  
**Saturday, May 28th**  
Starts at 9:30 a.m. and  
ends with a Pot Luck Lunch