



St. Andrew's United Church
M&S BUGLE

**The United Church of Canada supports
service and ministry across Canada and around the globe.
All of this work is carried out through
The Mission and Service Fund.**

M&S dollars are used to "run" the wider church, to support our congregations and our worship, to do all of our Canadian outreach and advocacy work, and to fulfill our commitments to our ecumenical and global partners. Decisions about the allocation of M&S funds are made by volunteers working on behalf of the whole United Church of Canada.

Here's another way of putting it!

June 2006: For our 81st anniversary, a few of our favourite things:

We are a church filled with purpose and vision.
Worship at home and world partners in mission,
Eighty-one years of love, service, and prayer—
Some of the ways that my church has been there.

Health care and life skills and fresh drinking water,
Schools built so parents can send sons or daughters,
Living a faith that is shared everywhere—
Some of the ways that my church will be there.

When I face fear,
When the night's near,
When I'm feeling sad,
I simply remember my church will be there,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Daring to be part of God's world in action,
Living in unity and not in factions,
Knowing Christ's love comes alive when we care,
Some of the ways that my church will be there.

Programs for children and Spirit Connection,
Gift planners, chaplains, and resource production
Mission and Service gifts willingly shared—
Some of the ways that my church will be there.

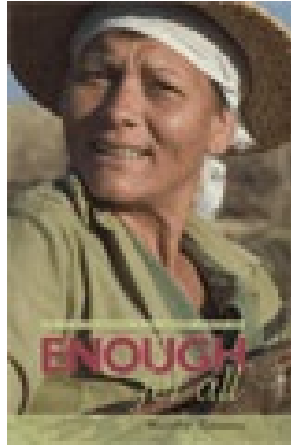
When the needs grow,
And help seems slow,
When I'm feeling sad,
I simply remember my church will be there,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hurricanes hit and create devastation.
Help for those hurting is our motivation.
Relief for a land that a flood has stripped bare—
Some of the ways that my church will be there.

Caring for refugees who need protection,
Helping communities advocate action,
We fund development, true long-term care—
Some of the ways that my church will be there.

When we seek peace,
When wars won't cease,
When I'm feeling sad,
I simply remember my church will be there,
And then I don't feel so bad.

From *The Observer* "On Stewardship" column



M&S Global Partners

The United Church of Canada has partnerships with national churches, ecumenical organizations, Christian Councils and church agencies around the world. Some of these partnerships have evolved from overseas mission work which started in the late 19th century and some from recent contact and collaboration.

In addition to these partners, there are numerous indigenous church and community organizations whose work is touched and supported by these partners.

The United Church of Canada and its global partners are called to work together in God's mission for wholeness of life. The Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit facilitates the relationships that enable The United Church of Canada and global partners to work together. We are one partner among many, called to receive and to give.

Too many to list here! Go to: <http://www.united-church.ca/global/>

M&S Canadian Partners

This listing is three pages!

http://www.united-church.ca/msfund/pdf/can_ministries.pdf

What has the Mission and Service Fund ever done for St. Andrew's?

Have we ever had a minister who received his or her training at a United Church-related theological school? Did he or she participate in a student internship? Have we ever used a lay training centre or sent delegates to General Council? Have our members ever

benefitted from a university chaplain or from a United Church hospital chaplain? Do we use United Church Christian education, social justice, or worship resources? Do members read *The Observer*? These are just a few of the ministries and resources that are made possible because of gifts to the Mission and Service Fund.

From the United Church Website



The Mission and Service Hanging in Our Sanctuary

by Catherine Mercer

Ten years ago, in 1996, the United Church of Canada issued a directive declaring that year to be the "Mission and Service Year". Eric Mercer, my husband, was involved with the Mission and Service Fund Committee of Saint Andrew's United Church, Halifax, and Beth Retallack was the Chairperson. We wondered what could bring and keep the Mission and Service Fund before the congregation of Saint Andrew's and I decided to hook a banner/hanging of the Mission and Service logo. I happened to be in hospital but my good friend, Nanette Ryan, took on the job of dyeing the woollen material into the colours required and did a remarkable

job-the colours were clear and bright! Our daughter, Barbara-Jane Stevenson (B.J.), transferred the pattern to linen backing and I hooked. The hanging was stretched and made ready for presentation by B.J. The Reverend Tony Ware was the minister who received the piece on behalf of the Saint Andrew's congregation during a special Mission and Service Sunday service.

**The Mission and Service Fund drives the Church in its
engagement with the Community —
local, national and international.**

Don't forget that right-hand box on your offering envelope!



The Meaning of the Mission and Service Fund Logo

The logo for the Mission and Service Fund can be viewed in two parts; the base foundation and the vertical flourishes.

The base may be seen as a manger reminding us the Christ Child was and is born among us and all creation. It may be seen as a baptismal font where we are welcomed to the new life in Christ. It may be seen as a communion table where we are nurtured in the new life and where offerings of bread, wine and money are brought and shared.

The vertical flourishes may be seen as a rainbow reminding us of God's covenant of hope with us and all creation. They may be seen as splashes of water cleansing and renewing all of life. They may be seen as flames of the Holy Spirit bringing God's light, warmth and direction to the life of the Church.

Taken together, the logo is designed to represent all aspects of the Mission and Service Fund. It is symbolic of our faith that has a sure foundation; and at the same time is vibrant, and energetic. It is symbolic of God's offering to us; and at the same time suggests each of us has something to offer to the wider wounded world. Together, the receiving and giving of God's gifts is at the heart of the Mission and Service Fund.

From the United Church Website

From Members of St. Andrew's Congregation:

"When I was about ten years old, a man on a tour to visit Churches was a guest in our home. He shared meals with the family and talked with us. He took enough interest to give me a small seashell from the Sea of Galilee in a small box of laquered wood. I was enchanted. This was the Sea which Jesus had walked beside, rowed on, sailed on...It sat

on my bureau for many years. . . It was just natural to give through Mission Band, and CGIT to some project of the Mission Work of our Church. . . The habit lives on.”

“I knew from an early age, that our Sunday School materials, our CGIT ecumenical Vesper Services, our study pamphlets at camp, church papers with news about events, people, current issues, faith conundrums came from Toronto out of money given. . . but how? So I learned about aspects of the expenditures of the Mission and Service Fund. And through adult activities I learned about media work, support for students, support for theological faculties and centres, church missions to work with the marginalized and the desperate. Again, activities supported in part by the Mission and Service Fund.”

“The United Church M&S reaction to the Tsunami convinced me this is the place to put many of my donation \$\$\$\$. Because of M&S emergency funds, and partners in the affected countries, the church was able to send aid quickly, and it was appropriate because our partners advised on what was needed. And, the United Church is still there giving on going assistance and building sustainable futures.”

St. Andrew’s M & S Service
November 26, 2006, 10:30 AM

The Peanut Service

Partnering in Africa: The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association

Guests: Youth from Bedford United Church

Emma Robillard Cole, Lauren & Heather Harrison, Beth Schaffenburg, Ellen & Lauren Somers, Graham Welsh, and adult chaperones Sandy Harrison, and Ruth Robillard.

PEANUT stands for: People Experiencing Another Nation United Together. Peanuts are an export of the Gambia, so hence the name. From March 8 to 18, 2006 15 youth and 4 chaperones from Bedford United Church travelled to The Gambia to witness and participate in the Peer and Health Education Program in the schools. They saw first hand the very important and difficult work of the Nova Scotia-Gambia Association Drama Troupes, but they also learned that despite the many hardships, the Gambians are joyful, happy people with a great deal of love to give. Nova Scotia-Gambia Association (NSGA) has a long tradition of involving Canadian high schools in development education experiences in West Africa. The first high school trip to The Gambia took place in 1986.

The visitors from Bedford United Church will lead Children's Time, including a skit that illustrates just one way that every day life is different in the Gambia, and tell us about their experiences on the trip. They will perform a skit to demonstrate the work of the drama troupes that are employed by NSGA.

What has all this to do with M&S?

M&S contributed funds for the Bedford United Church youth trip to The Gambia. Another way your M&S dollars have helped. Don't forget that right-hand box on your Offering Envelope, and for those on PAR, be sure to include M&S!

NSGA is a powerful example of the results of one person's enthusiasm. Read on!

Reaching out to Africa: The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association

In 1980, a small delegation of Nova Scotians traveled to The Gambia to explore the possibility of Canadian linkages with two Gambian institutions: Gambia College, which was seeking to build up its programs in teacher training and agriculture, and the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI), which was still in the conceptual stage.

The University College of Cape Breton (recently renamed University of Cape Breton), was invited to assist in the establishment of GTTI., Burris Devanney, until this year the NSGA Executive Director, accepted a position at the fledgling GTTI and developed a personal commitment to The Gambia



The Gambia Project I was born when Burris Devanney returned to Canada in September 1984. It proved impossible to leave his Gambia experience behind. As vice-principal of Halifax West High School, he initiated an educational visit to West Africa. This first project set out the principles that have governed future projects of the Association. It was conducted as a development education experience for the participants. It emphasized the concept of learning through active involvement. It included a development assistance component, providing an opportunity to do what tourists usually cannot do – visit schools, villages and rural development

projects and learn, at first hand, about some of the issues confronting a less developed country. It set out to establish linkages between groups and institutions in Nova Scotia and The Gambia.



The students' enthusiasm was infectious. It spread to staff members at Halifax West and to teachers in other schools and then to other institutions. Since 1985, The Gambia Project has grown into The Nova Scotia - Gambia Association, a major force in education in The Gambia. Most recently, NSGA has initiated a project in Sierra Leone.

NSGA projects have included:

- university-level development education courses at Canadian universities,
- summer school skills upgrading programs in English, Mathematics and French (offered in The Gambia with the volunteer graduates of university B.Ed. programs),
- a program to improve delivery of environment education in secondary schools, emphasizing stewardship and appropriate environmental behavior, through training for teachers, improved resource materials and support of school-based projects,
- programs exploring students' guidance needs and the professional development of Gambian school counsellors,
- peer health education programs in both Nova Scotia and The Gambia (and now in Sierra Leone),
- establishment of youth health education and counseling centers in high schools in The Gambia,
- a "mini-university" summer program in both Canada and The Gambia to expose youth to the university culture, and
- the University Extension Program, in conjunction with Saint Mary's University and the Government of the Gambia, which led to the formation of the University of the Gambia.



NSGA has also co-operated with other Nova Scotia institutions on their projects in The Gambia, most notably the linkage between the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) in Truro and the School of Agriculture at Gambia College, and Dalhousie University with the School of Education at Gambia College.

From the NSGA Website

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