

Mother's Union

(The following has been copied from a handwritten account in the Historical Document file in the Church Records drawer -- author unknown.)

A Branch of the Mother's Union was started in Fernie in 1922 but the earliest Books I can find are for 1924. In March of 1924 the M.U. had a membership of 48 and it has always been a very active Branch. They had one President, a Mrs. Wallace and one Secy, a Mrs. Loyns for nearly 25 years. We still have some of the very first members to enroll on our Roll call now but Ill health does not allow them to attend many meetings but they are still very interested. One Member donated a Rug in the May 1949 which we Ruffled & got \$29.00 for our funds. Some years ago the M.U. Members used to Hook Rugs at their meetings while someone read aloud to them. The M.U. looked after the Sunday School by Post Papers for some years & different Mothers kept up a correspondence with some of the Familys for years, they also used to send Bundles of Clothing to needy Familys of the S.S.P.

The M.U. Members turn out to Communion Services in Church on the Feast of the Annunciation. Also the 3rd Sunday in each Month is the M.U. Corporate Communion. They have various Speakers to speak at their Meetings, also have had Lantern Slides. We have a link at St. Luke's in Winnipeg and also St. Chad's in England.

Each Christmas a Card and Basket of Fruit or something suitable is sent to all shut in Members, also all I.P.G. Members.

The M.U. also looks after the Cradle Roll and gets the Brithday Cards for sawm. One of our Members has been the Cradle Roll Secy for years.

The M.U. buys the Flowers for the Altar for Mothering Sunday, also we usually get some for Easter too.

We also used to send Bandages and Bundles of Clothing to the Columbia Coast Mission until Cottons got too hard to get. Then we used to Roll Red Cross Bandages at our meetings. We also made heavy Quilts during World War I and sent them to England. We also sent Donations to the D.M.O fund. We also bought War Savings stamps. We collected money towards a Banner.

A Committee was Formed to pay off the Mortgage on the Church & one of the ways of raising Money was by cleaning the Church, turning the money thus saved over towards the Mortgage, the Mothers took a big part in this and now 25 years later, we are again helping to clean the Church & the Money this time has been put to the repair of our Rectory which was very much in need, but now it

has been painted inside & out & New Furnace & a New Kitchen Stove installed & it is all paid for. The Members of the M.U. ran a series of Whist Drives and Rummage Sales as our effort towards the repairs and the New Stove. For years our Church had no W.A. just a "Ladies Guild" so the M.U. members always had charge of the Home Bake Table at th Annual Bazaar which is held in Nov. Now we have a W.A. & as some of the M.U. Members belong to the W.A. we all just work together.

The M.U. used to meet every other Wed. at 7 30 P.M. but now our Meetings are teh 1st and 3rd Wed. of each Month. About twice a year we turn our Meeting into a Party & each invites a friend & every one has a good time. We always have a cup of tea & some simple refreshments each Meeting night, Members take it in turns to supply same. We have also put on Parties for the Cradle Roll children & their Mothers usually at Christmas time.

The M.U. sent Donations to the Rock Glen Mission. The M.U. used to have a shower for the S S Van Girls until Rationing stopped that, then we made a Cash Donation. The Girls always gave us a very Interesting talk on their work in the Field. The M.U. Donated to B&7 Bible Society .

The M.U. used to donate to the Prisoners of War Fund and pay for Parcels. We Donated to our very own Vestry each year. To raise the Money for all this we have had at different times, Teas, Raffles, Partys, Whist Drives, Lantern Slides.

We also donate to the Sunday School Christmas Tree and helped with the Supper if they had one.

Mae Williams remembers Mrs. Hartley (from West Fernie) and Mrs. Milley, who were sisters-in-law, as key players in the Mother's Union along with Mrs. Rachel Girou, Mrs. Queenie Rowe, Mrs. Queenie Corrigan, Mrs. Lois Buchanan (Queenie Corrigan's daughter who was married to Raymond, Jack Buchanan's brother).

The Mother's Union in Fernie ceased in ????. Leona Carolla (Queenie Rowe's daughter) is the last remaining Mother's Union member still attending Christ Church in 2018.