

## ACW Diocesan Board Annual

by **Sandra Arbeau,**

*ACW Board President, Diocese of Edmonton*

The ACW Diocesan Board Annual was held on the beautiful and bright Saturday morning of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The morning Eucharist Service and annual meeting was attended by approximately 90 plus people. Although it was a busy day Bishop Jane was present for part of the service and gave us information about the money that was sent to the Diocese of Buyé Burundi last year to help educate a female priest. We were all happy to hear that the money has been put to use.

Bev Orioux from St. Augustine's Parkland, Spruce Grove gave an exceptional talk on a project to send Dignity Kits to Buyé, Burundi so that girls can stay in school, receive a good education and earn a good wage to support themselves and their families. It was a shocker to see examples of what girls use during their monthly cycle. After Bev's talk a motion was made to make Dignity Kits the ACW Project for 2015. During a lengthy discussion one lady stood up and gave a very emotional, from the heart talk on why we should go ahead with this project having raised two daughters and now a granddaughter growing up in this world of plenty. She shared about the opportunities we have to get an education and buy what supplies we need during the monthly cycle, which does not include grass, moss, corn cobs, corn leaves, or better still sitting on cardboard. The motion passed with a strong vote. Another motion was made to pay for a second another shipment up front to be sent to Buyé Burundi. The first shipment is ordered and will be arriving very shortly.

When ACW groups decide upon what charities they will be supporting it would wonderful to see Dignity Kits for Buyé added to their list. We do hope that the support we have seen so far will continue throughout 2015, giving more and more people the opportunity to help in this cause. You can continue to send donations to the Synod Office with the memo line marked "Dignity Kits." Thank you for all you have given so far to such a worthy cause.

Marjorie Bencz from the Edmonton Food Bank was also a speaker at this Annual. She was informative about their activities, especially their effort to establish more depots throughout different sections of Edmonton so that people will not have to travel all over the city for assistance. Local depots, including in churches, can be open for two hours one day, evening or Saturday each week. She explained that the Food Bank will deliver the boxes of food to the church and come and pick up the empty boxes. The recipients bring their own plastic bags and pick up the food marked for them. Volunteer training is provided for those who hand out food. This is a project that our churches could help with as one of the Marks of Mission.

Sally Harrison presented the Ven. Jacques Vaillancourt with a lovely stole, similar to the stole presented to Canon Bibiane from Buyé at last year's conference. This stole was a thank you for all the work that Jacques did while he was Chaplain for the ACW Diocesan Board.

It was great seeing so many men in attendance - thank you all for coming.

Life Memberships were presented to St. Stephen the Martyr members: Donna Enright, Judy Korop and Ruth (accepted by Canon Travis Enright on her behalf). The food was delicious and as it was catered the ladies were free to enjoy the whole meeting.

Mark your calendars with the dates of the upcoming ACW Regionals:

Cold Lake: June 6, 2015, Emmanuel, Gibbons

Yellowhead/Edmonton West: September 25, 2015, Good Shepherd, Edmonton

Whitemud: October 3, 2015

Battle River: to be determined

Diocesan ACW Board Annual: May 7, 2016

In closing I would like to greet you with the Peace of the Lord in the language of Burundi: "Amanoro." Blessings.