

I do not understand the mystery of grace; only that it meets us where we are, but it does not leave us where it found us" ~ Anne Lamott

The quote by Lamott got me thinking about the mystery and wonder of God's grace that is freely gifted to us to strengthen us and to sustain our spirits as we continue to maneuver through these challenging times! It is now that time of year when we watch the leaves change into their golden colors, then fall back to the earth, signaling that winter is not that far way! We are not sure what challenges are ahead for all of us, but I am certain that God's grace will see us through! As Martha Associates, we look forward to this time of year, getting back together again after a summer break! The difference this year, however, is that our summer break has become the 'COVID break'. Like most people, the Associates have not been able to meet in person since March. We have been fortunate to use electronic means to be in touch with each other, as well as the phone and the snail mail! Slowly, over these many months, Public Health protocols and guidelines have been devised so that groups of varying sizes would be able to begin to come together again safely. And so, treading gently, some of our Associate groups have begun meeting once again.



Martha Associates



Associate members of the Sydney and Glace Bay groups, met for the first time since March, on October 14, 2020. Eleven Associates and one journeyer braved a wild, wet and windy evening to come together in person at the Bethel Presbyterian Church Hall in Sydney. Although we were masked and social distanced from each other, the joy we felt at being together again was clear!! We took some time to express how we have been managing through this 'COVID world', and how we had a sense of hope for the future! We were delighted to have an email update from Sr. Florence Kennedy on our Sisters of St. Martha. We are grateful that they have been well throughout these times. We continue to pray for all the Sisters!

Our Associates in Lethbridge are also coming together in person. A small number of Associates met on October 15, 2020 and plans are underway to meet with the Lethbridge Associate group via ZOOM. We may need extra prayers to ensure that this meeting is a success as I seem to be allergic to technology!!! I am hoping that we will have a plan in place for each of our Associate groups to meet by the end of this year. It is essential that everyone feels supported, safe and comfortable. This is an evolving process. Blessings to all!

~Julia Townsend
Martha Associates Director