

## *Dedication of Stained Glass Window in Loving Memory of Roma Paul*

### *Dedication by Eric, Nancy and Anthony Paul:*

Many of you who are here today knew Roma Paul. And, if you knew Roma, you loved her. Throughout her life, Roma participated in a multitude of church and community activities. However, her association with the United Church, particularly St. James, was a dominant part of her life. Next to her family, Roma's paramount love was the church. She was a founding member of St. James. In 1958, she started as a Sunday School teacher at Macpherson Academy where the congregation met until the church was completed in 1961. Throughout the years, Roma held many leadership roles on various church committees.

Roma had a special interest in the UCW and served as President or Co-President for numerous terms. The fellowship and fun she experienced within the UCW was her absolute joy. Roma loved music and thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the UCW Choir. Roma also took on major leadership roles both provincially and nationally. She was a commissioner to General Council and for eight years she was the United Church representative from NL on the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC), an ecumenical group working on national and international social justice issues. During her terms with WICC, Roma was also a Canadian representative on international committees. Roma was loved and respected by all who had the pleasure of working with her.

Roma's nurturing and gentle spirit as well as her loving nature provided a guiding light to so many people. She was an inspiration to us and people gravitated towards her wisdom and understanding. She was a source of endless compassion and unconditional love. Roma cherished her family and friends and being a part of this congregation. Although Roma's presence is greatly missed, she will remain in our hearts forever. She was caring and kind and her loving touch will never be forgotten; we loved her more than words can ever express.

To honour the memory of a much loved wife, mother and faithful friend, her husband Eric, daughter Nancy, son Anthony, extended family members and friends have donated this stained glass window to St. James. Roma came here to practise her faith and receive inspiration for her Christian values and infinite good works. The window is designed to depict images of "things bright and beautiful" which reflect Roma's interests and joy of life. We hope the beauty of God's world reflected in this window will bring sunshine to your soul.

Throughout her life, Roma was a faithful servant of God. One of her favourite Bible verses was "What does the Lord require of us? To do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with our God." (Micah 6:8) We hope Roma's Legacy of Love will continue to be a guiding inspiration to this congregation and to all who were privileged to have known her.

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### *Dedication by Scott Worsfold, family friend:*

Roma Paul was a very special person who exemplified the best of Christian values. She was caring and compassionate, she loved life, and she worked tirelessly to promote justice and understanding.

The stained glass design is a significant representation of that which was meaningful to Roma. The rainbow and dove are signs of God's covenant and promise. The rising sun and the butterflies are symbols of new life and hope. The flowers, water, mountains and birds are all symbols of the beauty of the earth and the interconnectedness of all creation. The phrase "We are not alone, we live in God's world" is the powerful image that begins the United Church's New Creed and is a reminder of God's covenant with humanity. The promises of God, and the grace and hope of a life lived in service to God and others, were a large part of Roma's life.

The entire scene viewed together is a very vibrant, hope-filled and life affirming design. Roma loved life, and she loved the earth. This beautiful representation of life in all of its splendour and colour is a meaningful tribute to Roma Paul, a beautiful and spiritual person who lived her life in service and gratitude.

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