



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

[www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)

C.W.U. Newsletter December, 2016 No. 5

January 7, 2017

## Human Rights Celebration Kindling New Fires of Hope Steven Schooler

9:00 am Brunch  
10:00 am Human Rights Celebration

Bethany United Methodist Church  
3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison

### January Human Rights Celebration

On Saturday, January 7, 2017, we will gather at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison, for Church Women United's **Celebration of Human Rights**. After a brunch at 9am, we will begin our worship celebration as we dedicate ourselves anew to the rights of all humans in our world. The 2017 themes of CWU are Hope, Peace and Love. Our theme this month is ***Kindling New Fires of Hope***. It is good to start out our new year with hope. We Christians are people of hope. The Human Rights Celebration comes out of the involvement of CWU with the United Nations since 1945. Our unit will be presenting the Human Rights Award from National CWU to Steven Schooler, Director of Porchlight, a ministry that provides a helping hand, not a handout. Steve will be telling us about Porchlight.

Consider inviting people in the community to come to this celebration. It is quite an honor to recognize those who are working for justice for others and who realize that all people have rights. After a brunch at 9am, we will begin our worship celebration as we dedicate ourselves anew to the rights of all humans in our world.

As a way to help, you are invited to bring donations of small items from this Wish List of The Road Home/Porchlight.: Diapers, baby & pull ups, baby wipes, cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, hair care products designed for African-American hair, gift cards for gas and groceries

### **Porchlight: Solutions to Homelessness**

Housing from Executive Director, Steven J. Schooler, graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1981, and practiced law in Madison for twenty years before deciding to change careers and become the Assistant Director for what was then Transitional Housing Inc. (now Porchlight) in 1999.

He became the Executive Director in 2001 and has served in that capacity ever since. Transitional Housing merged with another local non-profit, Community Housing and Services to become Porchlight in 2004 and he became Executive Director of the merged entity, Porchlight. Mr. Schooler served on the Board of Directors for Transitional the early 1990s until 1999 when he joined the staff. During that time, he led several summer mission camps connecting volunteers to helping at the Drop-In Shelter and renovation and maintenance projects for buildings owned and operated by Transitional Housing.

In the summer of 2004, Mr. Schooler, with a scholarship awarded by the Harvard Business School Club of Wisconsin, attended an intensive seminar at the Harvard Business School, "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management".

He has also received several awards, including the 2010 Perry Saito Award from the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, the 2010 Non-Profit Executive of the Year – Sales & Marketing Executives, the 2009 Professional Fair Housing Award – Wisconsin Fair Housing Network, and the 2008 Community Asset Builder from Downtown Madison, Inc.

Mr. Schooler was previously active in the State Bar of Wisconsin and on the Board for Transitional Housing prior to 1999 and has been an active member of First United Methodist Church since 1981.

## December Forum

New Beginnings Alliance Church welcomed us with open arms and a delightful period of fellowship on December 2, 2016. The ladies of the church hosted us in the gathering space and Pastor William Rick Badger welcomed us to the sanctuary, which was hung with the flags of several nations. New Beginnings shares ownership of the building with the Laotian church. Each has a worship time, and New Beginnings uses the building Tuesday and Thursday, the Laotian Church Wednesday and Friday. So the Laotian Church made room for CWU on this Friday, so we really had two churches hosting our meeting.

Gloria Carter reported that churches have responded well to the appeal for boxes from the Open Doors for Refugees. [ Contact information: OpenDoorsForRefugges@gmail.com, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OpenDoorsForRefugges> or call (608)438-5240.]

It's good to spread out our responses, since families will be arriving throughout the year, giving everyone time to step up and help.

Our topic, *The Urban League Today*. Dr. Ruben Anthony gave us a comprehensive picture of what the Urban League is doing to provide Madison's response to the challenges of our world. Issues of poverty, housing, hiring women, minorities, have been concerns of the Urban League since at least the 1940's. Urban League began in 1910, and blossomed under the leadership of Whitney Young in the mid century.

The Urban League of Madison has encouraged peaceful responses to acts of violence and racism, while speaking up for those harmed or marginalized in today's world. They work for social justice, serve as go-betweens, provide task forces to meet the many challenges. The obligation to sit down and talk—with Madison police, with UW's chancellor, with UW's police chief. Programs need to put their money where their mouths are. Urban League does things like job training, home improvement, supporting schools of hope. They have programs in 9 middle schools in Madison, 2 in Sun Prairie, 1 in Oregon. These work on basic literacy and math skills. There are 3rd graders who can't read. Urban League has helped 600 students a year with the help of 600 volunteers. Early Career opportunities require knowledge about them. They've had 30 students in

workplaces in summer programs, thanks to CUNA Mutual, banks, MATC.

They have bought 30 homes and have been giving, teaching how to budget, financing. Creating home ownership requires putting a person in a job, half the battle. Some Urban League programs include The Foundation for Readiness Academy, the Health Care Academy, IT Academy, Culinary training, Foundations for the Trades Academy, START programs, STEAM programs, culinary at the Catholic Multi-Cultural Center, working with Overture in the arts, University in labs, MATC in biotech.

Signature events include the Martin Luther King Breakfast, as Day of Service, the Community Unity Picnic. In education, they look for diversity and inclusion, they look at diversity and economic development. They are developing a new Employment and Training Center in southwest Madison. They are renovating Griff's Restaurant for this. They have placed 211 people in jobs. They are working with the Job Center, surveying the community, trying to fill gaps, work with businesses and police. Young professors support the Urban League. The ULGM Guild sponsors the MLK Breakfast and the Guild Dinner.

They get a lot of requests to help senior citizens with the digital gap. They look for ways to partner with the community to help people rebuild their lives. They are concerned about the voiceless, can't give up on chronically unemployed, providing second chances. And what keeps Dr. Anthony going? "I get to help someone every day." At the January 7th Celebration we will collect a free will offering in support of CWU expenses.

## Offering for Porchlight

The following items are needed for Porchlight Ministries to carry out their ministry.

- pots and pan
- kitchen implements (such as measuring cups, measuring spoons, can openers, etc.)
- sturdy laundry baskets
- gently used very large (sizes 2X-6X) Men's winter coats and clothing
- Men's and Women's winter boots
- Cotton or wool blend twin size blankets for a single bed

Thank you for your contributions to this important support ministry.

# **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Take Joy!**

I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not, but there is much, that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present instant. Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet, within our reach, is joy. Take Joy.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you, with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

Fra Giovanni  
A.D. 1513