



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter February , 2013 No. 7

Celebration

Friday, February 1, 2013

World Day of Prayer 2013 I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me

9:00 a.m. Gathering & Coffee

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
4011 Major Ave., Madison 53716

February Forum

Our February Forum included a celebration and a special opportunity as well as our program on Immigration and Health Policy. More than 40 people came to hear Barbara Nichols give an excellent presentation on how these two topics interact and how they affect us here in Madison. Dr. Richard Harris told us about his newly published book, *Growing Up Black in South Madison*, during the coffee hour, and gave us both a desire and an opportunity to buy a copy for ourselves. And we gave a Valiant Woman Award to Mary Jean Bartholomew, who made it back from the hospital just in time to receive it before we adjourned.

Hospitality from our CWU residents at Oakwood, combined with board members and key women, provided for an excellent time of fellowship. A fair number of men came to our meeting as well as at least 30 CWU members. Barbara Nichols is president of the Dane County United Nations Association. She brings 53 years of active work in nursing, both locally and globally. She was the first black president of the American Nursing Association. She has worked with the World Trade Association and the World Bank, traveling around the world to uphold standards for credentials and to discover that fraud reigns supreme. We have a large number of foreign health care professionals, 17%, so it is important to conduct assessments of licenses, training, etc. at the source. The Philippines is one of the largest exporters of health workers, second only to Mexico. The Philippines trains 100,000 nurses a year, most of whom travel to other coun-

tries for work. They are literally training them for export. The reason becomes clear when we look at remittances, the money that foreign workers send home to support their families. For the Philippines, \$200 million dollars arrives from abroad. Worldwide, \$500 billion is sent back to countries of origin by those working in other countries.

Ms. Nichols pointed out the human cost of this for these nurses. When the nurses first talked of missing their families, she thought of brothers and sisters. Then she discovered that these nurses were talking about their husbands and children. In a society which considers women's work as staying home and caring for husband and children, it is a wrenching cultural change, a sacrifice to support their family.

Remittance is more than just the money. It includes spreading cultural knowledge, American values, different ways of living, as well as the destruction of families resulting from such long separations.

Why travel for work becomes clear when comparing salaries. Consider that a nurse in India might earn \$500 a year, but here would earn \$37,000. We have 3 million registered nurses in the US, but even so we have a shortage, nurses are aging, and there are not enough education spots to meet our needs. Our general population is also aging, requiring more care. Women are living to age 87, men to age 80. We need the services of these women. But we don't know how lucky we are. Worldwide, the World Health organization reports a shortage of 4.5 million health care workers. Other countries have even greater demand for health care providers. Diseases are coming back, such as smallpox, once beaten. Africa bears 25% of the burden here, but with only 4% of health care resources. Nearly 1 billion people travel around the world annually. In ten years, that number will increase to 1 1/2 billion. One out of 35 people in America are migrants, though that is one out of 6 in urban areas.

Ms. Nichols has worked to assure quality health care, comparable education, and competency in both written and spoken English in those who come to us, and also strives to give

them the support they need to work comfortably and efficiently. With 1.1 million immigrants, being culturally competent is a necessary quality, and accepting racial disparity is equally important. By 2050, 10% of the US population will have come from Asia.

Migration differs in character today. It is cyclical, but continual, global in nature, and is overwhelmingly female. It used to be men looking for better wages. In 1912 it was Irish, Italian, German; in 2011; Asian, African: 1912, Catholic, Protestants; 2011, Hindu, Moslem, Buddhist: 1912, crafts; 2012, professional, technical. We are going from a melting pot to a mosaic.

Globalization is an international movement of technology, ideas, capital, people. The world is on the move. Globalization transcends all boundaries, ignores local definition, and is irreversible. Migration is an integral part, involving both working abroad while keeping a home base and totally relocating. Globalization and migration are a dual reality now. We are a global village, and what happens in Asia affects us here. Issues of equity, women, poverty affect us all. And we are all a part of this interconnected world which we must share with love and respect for others.

The Reverend

Mary Jean Bartholomew

Linda Caprariello presented CWU's Valiant Woman Award to the Reverend Mary Jean Bartholomew at Madison's February Forum on February 1, 2013. We will give her the official award from the national office when it arrives, but for the day, Linda gave her an award containing a copy of a poem that speaks to Mary Jean's gift to us here in Madison.

The gift within us,
lies dormant to the touch.
Unless we use it,
it doesn't mean much.

God gave us a purpose,
in His Big Plan, you see.
We complement each other,
with a spark to be set free

The gift within us,
needs nurturing and care.
We walk the quiet trails,
in hope to find it there.

We long for contemplation,
to feel the peace within.
Then our concentration
has its focus more on him.

Mary Jean, you have blessed the lives

of so many here in Madison and beyond.
Thank you for sharing the beautiful gift
that God has placed within you.

Linda shared her gift for poetry and music by writing a tribute to Mary Jean, and everyone in attendance joined in singing this song to the tune of Edelweiss.

A Song for Mary Jean Bartholomew
Mary Jean, Mary Jean,
Church Women United salutes you!
You're kind and good--it's understood
That there . . . is no one quite like you!
The first women's class and it wasn't the last...
To graduate PASTOS just like you
--A WOMAN!!
Mary Jean, Mary Jean,
There . . . is no one quite like you!
Two generations of Sunday school kids,
Youth groups with teens who adored you!
Mary Jean, Mary Jean,
There . . . is no one quite like you!
For 26 years at Westminster Presbyterian,
You baptized; you married;
you laid those to rest.
Mary Jean, Mary Jean,
Church Women United salutes you!
In Madison--You led the way . . .
We thank you;
We love you;
God Bless . . . you!

Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal

All singing women welcome.

We practice at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the third floor choir room. Practice dates are January 25, February 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12 and 26, 2013.

Special Lenten Events

These invitations come from the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin.

All are invited to Ash Wednesday Liturgy Feb. 13 at 3:30 pm at Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 County Road M, Middleton, WI. Reflection by Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS. Coffee hour to follow. No RSVP needed. Sr. Simone Campbell is a religious leader, attorney and poet who serves as the executive director of Network: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. She was a lead organizer of the Nuns on the Bus Tour that crisscrossed the nation this past summer highlighting economic injustice.

13th Annual Faith-Labor Breakfast (also at Holy Wisdom) February 14, 2013, 8 am to 10 am. Keynote speaker Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS. Breakfast is sold out. Other seats available

- mail your check for \$10 to ICWJ, 2300 South Park Street, Suite 115, Madison, WI 53713.

Mary and Bill, Senior Athletes

All are invited for a film screening of an inspirational documentary about senior Mary Stroebe and Bill Wambach. amazing seniors who are athletes. in Madison . Mary is 93 and Bill is 84. They both compete in athletic events! They will be present at the screening. The filmmaker, Andy Napier, is a former Madison resident. The screening will begin at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at the Monona Community Center (lower level), 1011 Nichols Road, Monona. Refreshments will be served. Monona Branch of AAUW is sponsoring this event.

<http://www.maryandbillfilm.com/about.php>

Ecumenical Action

There are many opportunities to take action on legislative issues related to our priorities as Church Women United:

State--The Open Pit Mining Bill is in discussion and scheduled for a vote on Feb.

6. Opponents to the bill, including environmental groups and Native American tribes, are concerned that the bill weakens environmental protections. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign has reported that special interests favor-

ing the legislation loosening mining regulations have contributed \$15.6 million to Republican legislators and Governor Walker, while opponents to the legislation have contributed \$25,544 to legislators.

National--Congress is grappling with issues concerning gun violence, immigration, and violence against women. Please see the Action Alert from the national CWU, urging you to contact your senator and ask for support for the Violence Against Women Act.

And right here in Madison, learn to advocate for social justice--attend the People of Faith United for Justice Advocacy DAY on Thursday, March 14. See the flyer included in this newsletter for more information. Gloria Carter, carter53597@tds.net, 608-849-7589

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Faith Bauman reminded us of the importance of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Women in all parts of the world sharing their least coins so that their pooled gifts can provide sewing machines or bicycles or training to help other women support their families, ease their burdens. In India, their least coin is worth 1/45 of a US cent. These coins come with prayer supporting them. In some years, these gifts total as much as \$140,000. Faith has a copy of the 2009 FLC report if anyone is interested in learning more. You may call her at 661-0470.

February 1, 2013

Church Women United Action Alert

This Monday, call your Senators and Representatives

On Interfaith Call-In Day, Demand that Congress Take Action to Stop Gun Violence!

Despite the long overdue wake-up call that the horrific tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut delivered to the nation, gun violence continues to plague our communities every day. But we are also seeing signs that our message is being heard, so we are stepping up our efforts to make sure that our elected officials take action.

This Monday, February 4 - Interfaith Call-In Day - members of the faith community are raising our voices together to call on Congress to act to prevent gun violence. Throughout the day, we will call our Senators and Representatives to urge them to support common sense legislation that:

- 1. Requires universal background checks for all gun purchases.** Preventing dangerous people from getting firearms has to be a top priority. Universal background checks via the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) should be utilized in every gun sale, including guns sold online, at gun shows, and through private sales.
- 2. Bans semi-automatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.** There is no legitimate self-defense or sporting purpose for these military-style, high-capacity weapons and magazines. They are, however, the weapons of choice for those who want to shoot and kill a large amount of people quickly. It's time to build off of the federal assault weapons ban that expired in 2004 and draft an updated law that will take these weapons off our streets.
- 3. Makes gun trafficking a federal crime.** Currently, prosecutions only happen through a law that prohibits selling guns without a federal license, which carries the same punishment as trafficking chicken or livestock. We must empower law enforcement to investigate and prosecute straw purchasers, gun traffickers, and their entire criminal networks.

4. Improves access to mental health services. Although the majority of Americans suffering from mental illness are not violent, we must do more to identify mental health issues early and help people get the treatment they need before dangerous situations develop.

To Reach Your Senator or Representative: Call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask the operator to connect you to your Senators and Congressperson. You can look up your Senators' names [here](#). Click [here](#) to look up your Member of Congress.

[For More information about Interfaith Call-In Day](#), click [here](#).

[Read Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence's letter to President Obama and Congress.](#)

Thank you for all you are doing to make the world safer for all of God's children!

Best -

Stephanie Jones
Advocacy Coordinator
Washington Office