



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter February, 2017 No. 7

March 3, 2017

World Day of Prayer Celebration Am I Being Fair to You?

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Welcome and Announcements
10:00 am Celebration

Oakwood University Woods
Heritage Building, Nakoma Room
6205 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705

Parking: Drive into Oakwood from Mineral Point Road. Go left. Turn into the 2nd parking garage door on the right. Push button to get into the garage. Tell voice you are here for World Day of Prayer service in Nakoma Room, Heritage Oaks. Take elevator to first floor. Reception desk will direct you to Nakoma Room

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on the first Friday in March. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up issues of mission, justice and peace that are important to them. Offerings collected during the services are granted by WDP national committees to non-profit organizations that deal with the issues identified by the writer-country. The WDP motto is "Informed prayer, prayerful action." World Day of Prayer USA promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service, and celebration.

The Celebration for World Day of Prayer 2017 was written by the WDP Committee of the Philippines. The focus is on Matthew 20:1-16, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. The Bible study and worship service invite us to explore concepts of economic justice both in the Philippines' context and around the world, and our response in light of God's generosity.

Please join us for our World Day of Prayer Celebration Friday, March 3, at Oakwood University Woods (6205 Mineral Point Road) in the Nakoma Room. Enjoy coffee and fellowship beginning at 9 am. The Celebration begins at 10.

Parking: When you drive into Oakwood from Mineral Point Road, go to the left. Turn into the second parking garage door which will be on the right. When you push the button to get into the garage, tell the voice that you are coming for the World Day of Prayer service in the Nakoma Room in Heritage Oaks. The voice will let you in. Take the elevator to the first floor. Turn right from the elevator and ask at the reception desk where the Nakoma Room is for World Day of Prayer.

February Forum

A lively group gathered at First Baptist Church on February 3. Pastor Jason Mack welcomed us, explained the interesting lamps and the Common Table worship service, and First Baptist women provided a lovely assortment of treats. Tables provided a good start to discussions about CWU and current events, particularly the closing of the door on refugees. Gloria Carter announced that we have received and settled six families already. The Open Doors for Refugees is now on hold, so donations must wait, because storage space is limited, as we can't stockpile items. Volunteers must be vetted, though, so that will be done while things are in limbo. Gloria's up-to-date report follows this article. (Up-to-date means February 6.)

The conversations were so lively that they actually ran into program time. And the program was a real treat. Meg Nielsen, Outreach Development Manager at Triangle Community Ministry, gave us an in-depth look at this non-profit organization formed in 1978 to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of residents in the urban renewal district bordered by West Washington, Park and Regent. Today TCM employs three part-time staff, a Registered Parish Nurse, a Chaplain and an Outreach Development Director as it continues to provide health care/health education, spiritual counseling and a sense of community for residents of the second largest subsidized housing complex in Wisconsin.

In the 1960s, the triangular area, formerly known as The Greenish, was developed by the City of Madison to provide low-income public housing for older adults and people with disabilities. Since all homes, stores, playgrounds and places of worship in the triangle were leveled to make way for new High-rise and handicapped accessible apartments, an ecumenical group of individuals and faith communities united with health and social services providers to form Triangle Community Ministry. The purpose was to give residents opportunities to gather for worship and to build and strengthen community. It has grown from a single part-time pastor to include the services of the three part-time staff, a Board of Directors and a host of volunteers.

Twenty-six Madison area congregations currently support this ministry, as do St. Mary's Hospital, United Way of Dan County, various service organizations and private individuals. They do an amazing amount of ministry on a very limited budget.

Triangle Community Ministry collaborates closely with Madison's Community Development Authority, which oversees the leasing and upkeep of housing units in the neighborhood. TCM staff function in a spirit of friendship and support among residents, linking them with community health and social service organizations and offering a listening ear to help defuse problems.

TCM's Registered Parish Nurse provides confidential professional community health nursing care that promotes physical, mental, emotional, environmental and spiritual wellbeing. Residents of the Triangle are served regardless of their faith orientation, at no charge. Assistance with individual and community wellness supports residents and enables them to live independently in better health and to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.

A part-time TCM Chaplain also serves residents of the Triangle neighborhood. The chaplain leads weekly worship, provides pastoral care, performs healing and memorial services and offered spiritual growth and other programs to strengthen community among the residents.

The Outreach Development Director connects with people outside the Triangle by communicating with supporting congregations, coordinating volunteers, raising funds, and writing grants, as well as working with the Triangle to plan community -building events.

TCM relies on support from churches, community organizations, healthcare groups, private individuals and grants. You can help by contributing financially, volunteering to assist residents with insurance, healthcare or other challenges, visit residents or drive them to appointments, help at Wisconsin Women's Health events, or help at the Second Harvest Food Pantry on the first Wednesday of every month. The food pantry came about when a volunteer realized that access to food sources was hard for residents, and that they were running low on food at the end of the month.

Most of the above is taken directly from TCM's FAQ sheet. It was much more enlightening to have Meg Nielsen tell us about it with slides, stories, and her own experiences. Living alone in an isolated location can be daunting, and Meg has provided experiences such as a day's retreat at Holy Wisdom for women residents. To view the scenery, walk the paths on the grounds, and fellowship with each other made a wonderful addition to their lives. Holy Wisdom provided the lunch and the welcoming location for this retreat.

Conversations continued for an hour after the program ended.

UPDATE ON OPEN DOORS FOR REFUGEES

In December and early January, Open Doors stocked and set up apartments for six refugee families. Jewish Social Services reported that the three families they brought to Madison were adjusting to life here, beginning English classes, and the adults were starting full-time jobs. On January 27 resettlement efforts were thrown into chaos and uncertainty with President Trump's executive orders halting the refugee resettlement program for 120 days, indefinitely barring refugees from Syria, and banning travel to the U.S. of anyone coming from seven majority Muslim countries for 90 days.

In a statement in response to Trump's actions, Open Doors remains committed to its mission to help refugees make a home in Madison and become thriving members of the community. Doing so increases the richness in culture and diversity of Madison. The statement continues:

"Our work is not done. In fact, we have more work than ever as we begin to rebuild trust that the current refugee screening process is rigorous and that refugees in our community do not pose threat. We now have to speak out with even greater conviction that refugee resettlement in our country is the right thing to do. Our engagement with community leaders to build greater trust, understanding and support of the refugee crisis and how our community can rise to the challenge are integral components of our next steps."

While at this writing a judge's ruling that suspended the travel ban is allowing previously-approved refugees and green card holders to enter the U.S., we must continue to advocate for the refugees. Information about contacting the White House and members of Congress can be found at the website for the Refugee Council USA: <http://www.rcusa.org/advocate-now/>

Another valuable resource is the website for the International Rescue Committee. The IRC was founded in 1933 at the suggestion of Albert Einstein to assist Germans suffering under Hitler. It consistently receives top ratings by charity watchdog groups. Go to the website (www.rescue.org) to find out how you can help refugees, to read the stories of the refugees and refugees families, and to learn how the U.S. refugee vetting and resettlement process really works. The hardest way to come to the U.S. is as a refugee. Refugees are vetted more extensively than any other group seeking to enter the U.S. Get the facts and be an advocate!

Here are seven common myths about refugee resettlement in the United States, taken from the IRC website. Go to the website for details.

Myth: Refugees are terrorists. Fact: Refugees are fleeing terror groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram. Experts agree that refugees are not a security threat. Myth: Refugees are mostly men. Fact: More than half of the world's refugees are children.

- Myth: We have never faced a refugee crisis like this before.
Fact: From World War II to Vietnam, the U.S. has provided safe refuge for many refugee families over the years.
- Myth: Refugees want to leave their home country.

Fact: Refugees are forced to flee their homes due to war and persecution

- Myth: Refugees are all Muslim.
Fact: Refugees are all religions.
- Myth: Refugees are all from the Middle East.
Fact: The majority of refugees considered for resettlement come from Myanmar.
- Myth: Refugees are a drain on society.
Fact: Refugees start businesses, pay taxes and contribute to communities.

Gloria Carter

Fundraiser for Jail Ministry

Madison Church Women United is holding a fundraiser in support of the Jail Ministry at the Dane County jail. The chaplains receive no support for their work, so they depend on contributions for their programs.

The Front Porch String Band, a group of eight ukulele instrumentalists and vocalists, will perform on Sunday, March 5, at 3 p.m. and will have people smiling, tapping their toes and singing. A \$20 donation will be requested to help the Jail Ministry at the Dane County celebrate its 50 years of service.

Please check the enclosed flyer for location of the event.

Announcement:

The SERRV store on Monroe Street will be closing at the end of February. All items are on sale. The State Street store will continue.

CWU Board Meeting

The Madison CWU Board will meet Friday, February 24, at 9:30 am at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Coffee hot by 9:00, snacks ready. Shirley Robbins, Enabling Chair, emphasized that all are welcome to come, officers present or past, or future, or members who want to share ideas.

Ecumenical Choir

Jenny Armstrong invites all interested singers who would like to sing with the choir to join us from noon to 1:30 pm at Bethany Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison, 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. Practice schedule: February 10, 24; March 10, 24.