



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter February, 2011 No. 7

Celebration

The Christian Women of
Malaysia invite us to join them for
World Day of Prayer 2012
Let Justice Prevail

Friday, March 2, 2012, 1:30 pm

**Oakwood West, 6209 Mineral Point Rd
2nd Floor of the Tower
Lounge by Tea Room**

World Day of Prayer

The Christian women of Malaysia invite us to join them Friday, March 2, for World Day of Prayer 2012. The theme *Let Justice Prevail* was developed out of their experience of life as Christian women within their multicultural, multi-religious society. There is a rich history of World Day of Prayer beyond what we have known. In 1941 when Church Women United started, it was an important event. But, it actually started in 1897 when a group of women from six denominations formed a joint committee for a united day of prayer for their church's home missions. Then in 1912 the Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions called for a united day of prayer for foreign missions also.

Please join us in the Oakwood West's Tower apartment building at 6209 Mineral Point Road. The celebration will be on the second floor in the lounge area of the Tea Room on **March 2 at 1:30 p.m.** A time of fellowship with a light dessert & beverage will follow the celebration.

Suggestions for Parking and Finding Your Way to the Tower Tea Room.

There are two choices.

1. On entering the Oakwood West campus off Mineral Point Road, turn to the right. There are usually a few parking spots there and up into Tower/Oaks circle. Go in the Tower entrance and take the elevator **up** to the 2nd floor.
2. For more parking, bear left when you enter Oakwood and go to the left. The second right says underground visitor parking. There is a button on a pole on the left. Just push it and say you are attending Church Women United and the door will open. Take the elevator to the **first floor** and go to the receptionist desk in the lobby. Or you may park outside near the resale building and walk under the overhead walkway into the main entrance of Heritage Oaks and the lobby. The receptionist at the desk can then direct you to the Tower. You just have to follow the signs. Once in the Tower take the elevator **down** to the 2nd floor.

February Forum

Caring for God's Creation was the focus of the February forum at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church. Thirty people attended, most in bright red to celebrate Women's Heart Health Month, and enjoyed a time of fellowship at tables graced with red carnations while sampling delicious breads.

The Reverend Ray Bailey welcomed us to Dale Heights on behalf of Pastor Marilyn Gamm. The church is 55 years old this year. They take pride in sharing their space with a Korean Presbyterian church, MATC classes, the Wisconsin Debating Association, Breast Cancer Support, Girl and Cub Scouts, MFIS's international furniture exchange, and so glad to share their space with CWU.

Our speaker, Laura Pfeffer, gave an excellent program that gave us ways to live out this year's priority of national Church Women United, ***Building a Better World Fit for All God's Children***. She provided ways to accomplish the goal of a clean and safe environment that supports life on this earth with both spiritual basis and practical ways to make this happen. Her focus: God created all things good. God is green . . . all the time. Scripture is full of blessings the creator gave us. From Eden on, so much of what we know is how God related to creation, all the way to God becoming a part of nature and dying to save us. Renew, reuse, recycle, fit the image of Creator God. Laura proposed seven R's for Christians: reclaim, reduce, reuse, recycle, repent, rejoice.

Reclaim is a call to be responsible for the creation God gave us. God created humans in God's image to keep, protect and preserve the world. Reduce calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow. Accumulation is a horrible example. We cannot serve God and stuff. Simplify. Reuse. Waste is endemic. We produce 4# of trash for every 1# of recycling. Choose reusable items and resist crazes. Recycle is the most widely accepted idea, though that is under attack in Wisconsin. Lack of money stifles recycling. We need to make it easy for people to do this. Composting is gaining ground, and is a great community project. We can buy more things made from recycled materials, help build up a market for such things. Aluminum cans are the only things that are cheaper to make from recycled than from ore. We pioneered recycling plastic, and it was a woman that came up with that triangle ID for plastic. Repent fits nicely into Lent as we find ways to give up wasteful habits. She urged us to vote with our forks three times a day. Michael Pollan advocates a return to eating real food. "In the so-called Western diet, food has been replaced by nutrients, and common sense by confusion. The more we worry about nutrition, the less healthy we seem to become." Finally, rejoice. Find beauty in God's creation, for God is green all the time.

She passed out information on eco-palms, using Chamaedora Palms for Palm Sunday and Easter, which promotes healthy forests and sustains fair-trade communities that grow them. Information at the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) at the University

of Minnesota. 612-624-4299, of cinram@umn.edu, <http://cinram.umn.edu>

There will be a preach-in the weekend of February 11 and 12 on Global Warming in many churches. And there's a movement to send Valentine's Day cards to policy-makers on this subject.

Laura brought with her a sheet with recipes for making green household products that are easier on the environment. Soaps, heavy-duty cleaners, polishers, laundry soap. She even supplied samples of the laundry powder she had made that only requires 1 tablespoon per wash load. She noted that on January 26, a number of people sent letters to the EPA asking that they release the final report on dioxin.

In summary, Going green is a process, a process of sanctification.

UN Report from Donna Turner

There are 500 million adolescent girls living in developing countries. They are bright, talented and full of dreams but are often unable to reach their full potential. The United Nations Foundation has begun a new campaign entitled Girl Up. The vision of Girl Up is a world where all girls have the opportunity to become educated, healthy, safe and possibly the next generation of leaders. A continuing goal of the UN is Every Woman and Every Child - dealing with health realities of women and children in developing countries including pneumonia, diarrhea (the # 1 killer of children under 5), pre-term birth complications, and malnutrition. The UN persists in working with speed and ability to bring about a more vibrant economy in Haiti following the disastrous hurricane two years ago.

Note from Shirley Robbins

We realize that sometimes the Forum schedule in the Directory doesn't work out as published. This can be a mistake by the "composer," but just as often it is a change in circumstances of the scheduled church, or a big snowstorm, or something else beyond our control. Announcements begin going out to newspapers early in the month. These, and this Newsletter are likely to have correct information even though the Directory may be wrong. One can always phone or e-mail Shirley Robbins or another member of the Board to be absolutely sure.

Ecumenical Action Reports

The Legislative Office of CWU is now online. www.CWUinDC.blogspot.com

Good news. The Indiana General Assembly unanimously passed the law against human trafficking. Senator Kohl is one of the sponsors of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. There is a new law concerning internet abuse, posting contact information against women for violent purposes. CWU has sent a telegram to President Obama asking him to seek peace. CWU has done this with every president since 1941. There is a 1000 day campaign for Bread for the World to pray that children can survive to their second birthday. And we have forwarded the Petitions on the Rights of the Child that you have signed to President Obama.

The national CWU newsletter has a report of the national December meeting of CWU. The Coalition for Wisconsin Aging reports that the legislature has cut the Homestead Credit from 25% with the goal of dropping it to 15% by 2016. This applies to both renters and home owners. Most people receiving this make less than \$15,000 a year and only have social security as income. Present legislation gives more benefits to people with high incomes. Contact your legislator to urge change.

We hope to have information on a plan of action regarding voter ID that will help people access the IDs they need. The MEC Directory is going well, and they're working to tie up the loose ends. It's nice to know that this is a valued service. The people at the jail call it the "approved church list". And the Madison Times wrote up January's Human Rights Celebration, complete with a photograph.

Upcoming Events

David Lyons Lecture at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave., on April 14. This year John Dominick Crozack is the featured speaker.

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. Spring practice dates are January 13 and 27, February 10 and 17, March 9 and 23, April 13 and 20.

2012 Human Rights Award

Acceptance Remarks by Christine Beatty, January 7, 2012

Thank you for this prestigious award. It honors my 30+ years of work in senior social services, and it honors many older adults who have been my mentors and models for my own aging process. Thanks to those here today who singled me out for recognition among my many excellent colleagues. I want to focus my remarks on AGEISM, which I believe is a continuing struggle in the arena of Human Rights. May Sarton wrote in As We Are Now: ***"The trouble is, old age is not interesting until one gets there. It's a foreign country with an unknown language to the young and even to the middle-aged."*** And because we do not understand this language or this "foreign country", we are suspicious and fearful of it.

AGEISM is a term coined by Dr. Robert Butler, long time Director of the UCLA Longevity Institute and a pioneer in research on aging, in his Pulitzer Prize winning book Growing Old in America: Why Survive?

AGEISM:

Is the belief that we can determine what a person can and cannot do on the basis of age alone. And AGE alone becomes the reason for discrimination against people.

Shares common attributes with sexism, racism, and is similar to anti-Semitism or homophobia.

Has been against the law for over four decades, along with discrimination against individuals on the basis of gender, race, and religion.

Yet it remains pervasive in our society. Some of you may have seen the "Over the Hill" items available for birthday parties. One "gift" is a black, coffin shaped box filled with anti-aging items.

Here are some greeting cards that illustrate my point about cultural views about age. "Don't take 50 lying down!... (open card) Someone might try to bury you!"

I enjoy the Maxine line of cards, because she's feisty and independent. But listen to the themes in these

cards: “It’s nice to see you doing so well at your age... (open card) You know, breathing and everything.” AND “You’re 50 but you haven’t lost it!... (open card) Look lower, you’ll see it.”

And one more: “It’s birthday time again! You’re lookin’ good! You’re feelin’ good!... (open card) You apparently don’t realize what’s going on.”

Funny? Yes, I suppose, but, maybe not, if they demonstrate prevailing attitudes about aging in our society. These cards present the expectation of physical and mental deterioration and the age of 50 as the beginning of that of decline. I don’t think so.

Golda Meir once said, ***“Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are abroad, there is nothing you can do about it.”***

Let’s learn about the impacts of AGEISM. Bias on the job in employment is one. In the late 1990s more than 19,000 age discrimination complaints were received yearly, and attorneys say that age discrimination often is hard to prove. Only about 1 in 7 cases were settled to the complainant’s benefit. In our current environment these statistics are worsening. Many discouraged and frustrated older job seekers may agree with the statement, that ***old age is when you know all the answers, but no one asks you the questions!***

If health care is a right of Americans, older adults are less likely to receive preventative care and often lack access to doctors trained in their needs. Only about 10% of U.S. medical schools require work in geriatric medicine with only about 7,600 physicians certified as geriatric specialists. This is far below the projected 36,000 physicians needed by 2030.

Another type of ageism in health care is the exclusion of elderly people in prevention studies, practice, and research. An ageist belief of “the horse is out of the barn” exists, meaning that it is too late to change habits. This despite increasing evidence that it is possible to recover lost function and/or prevent the onset and risk of disease. With more time I could talk about the positive and remarkable impact of “pumping iron” in nursing homes. It is never TOO late to improve your health.

Ageism also manifests itself in advertising and mar-

keting, most notable in television. The older population accounts for half of all consumer spending, but are targeted by just 10% of marketing. Advertisers tell us when an older person sees a product targeted to a younger person, they’re willing to buy it, but young people won’t buy a product targeted to older persons.

Some researchers believe that ageism, in the form of negative stereotypes, directly affects LONGEVITY. In a study published by the American Psychological Association, Yale School of Public Health professor Becca Levy concluded that older people with positive perceptions of aging lived an average of 7.5 years longer than those with negative images of growing older!

Our stereotypes about aging, starting early in childhood, reinforced throughout adulthood and continued as we enter old age may perpetuate and be as unfavorable as younger people’s attitudes. This is a major frustration in my life and work – that OLDER adults themselves hold ageist attitudes!

Seventy-seven million baby boomers are approaching their 60’s, and they will find that ageism is a unique form of bias in that it is UNIVERSAL -- that is, it will affect ALL who live long enough. Therefore, everyone has a vested interest in eradicating this prejudice. Dr. Butler wrote, ***“We all aspire to live to be old, and consequently we all must work to create a society where old age is respected, if not honored, and where persons who have reached old age are not marginalized.”***

In closing, please let me remind you: ***“Do not regret growing older ~ it is a privilege denied to many.”***