



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter January, 2011 No. 5

**February Forum**  
**February 4, 2011**  
**Friday a.m.**

## *Vital Issues Before the United Nations Now*

**Tom Brown**  
**Member, Dane County United  
Nations Association**

9 a.m. Gathering and coffee  
10 a.m. Program

**Glenwood Moravian Church,  
725 Gilmore Street, Madison**

### **February Forum**

*Vital Issues Before the United Nations Now* is the topic of the Church Women United February Forum. We will meet on Friday, February 4, at Glenwood Moravian Church, 725 Gilmore Street, Madison. Gathering and coffee at 9:00 a.m.

The program begins at 10:00, led by Tom Brown, an active member of the Dane County United Nations Association. A long time advocate for the United Nations, Tom is a retired librarian who served overseas with the United Methodist Church for about 10 years. He worked as a librarian in Northshore-Chicago as well as in several colleges in West Virginia. He and his wife, Lee, moved to Madison in 1996. He is active in the United Methodist Church and in the United Nations Association of the USA,

Dane County Chapter, as well as the United Nations Association of Wisconsin. Be sure to come for this opportunity to learn more about the United Nations. All interested women and men are invited.

### **Human Rights Celebration**

Our 2011 celebration of human rights drew 41 people, including several men, to Trinity Methodist Church on a cold but sunny day. The Rev. Amanda Stein welcomed us to her church, which still worships in the original building of this congregation formed in 1893. The gorgeous stained glass windows of that period lighted our celebration of what Church Women United has done in this field, and particularly on our presentation of the 2011 Human Rights Award to Jacqueline Wright, long-time member of CWU--Madison and Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

The celebration's litany of our legacy and our dream says much about CWU. We began in a time of war, we continue to work for peace. We observed human rights violations, we support the United Nations. We witnessed racism, we affirm that our movement transcends artificial barriers. We became aware of human trafficking, we educate about modern slavery. We saw women and children carrying water for miles, we rally together to provide wells. We recognized the plight of farm workers, we work to prevent their exploitation. We observed people sick and dying, we promote ethical health care. We saw workers exploited and without a country, we work for immigration reform. We saw babies left behind and fathers cry because they don't have the right documents, we work for a welcome for all. God is at work in our world, we listen to God to discern the future of Church Women United. This is our legacy, this is our dream.

In the person of Jackie Wright, we have our own legacy, our own dream personified.

## Mother to Madison

Justice and mercy  
Accorded to all,  
Caring heart and mind  
Knitted together  
In service to  
Everyone in need.

What a testimony is this,  
Reaching back so far  
In time while radiating  
Great distances in the  
Here and now to nurture  
Tomorrow's possibilities.

*By Barbara Goodwyn Eggleston*

Following our celebration, Steven Schooler of Porchlight discussed some of the important issues that Porchlight deals with and seeks to remedy through its programs with the support of hundreds of donors, churches and foundations, and volunteers at its drop-in shelter. Its mission statement: Porchlight strives to decrease the Dane County homeless population by providing shelter, housing, supportive services, and a sense of community in ways that empower residents and program participants to positively shape their lives.

Mr. Schooler disposed of a number of misconceptions about homelessness. Homelessness existed before anyone in Madison addressed the problem, homeless people are local residents in greater numbers than transients, mental illness is a major factor in homelessness but not in presenting danger to the community. The mental illnesses most affecting homeless people are schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Men and women both suffer from these illnesses. People who present a danger are abusers of alcohol and drugs, and they aren't a part of the shelter population.

Lack or loss of jobs can put a large range of people into homelessness. Treating mental illness could make a huge difference. As a matter of public policy, the decision to close mental institutions (insane asylums) was with the idea that confining people was inhumane and violated rights. Treatment is best delivered in the home community. The problem with this: the money that supported the asylums did not follow people into the communities. It vanished in the system, and no funding sources appeared by magic to pick up the burden. Treatment and support make huge differences in people's lives, allow them to function, keep them out of prison, prevent dangerous breakdowns. While the body politic is willing to spend \$30,000 a year to lock up those who break the law, we don't invest, say, \$10,000 on someone to keep crimes and tragedies from happening.

## Human Trafficking

January is *Human Trafficking Prevention Month* around the country. President Obama issued a proclamation that marked the serious nature of Human Trafficking, urged us all to remember those victims, to educate ourselves and to work for eradication of this scourge on humanity. SlaveFree Madison was able to get proclamations declaring Human Trafficking Prevention Month from the Mayor of Madison and from the Dane County Executive, Madison CWU is listed as one of the groups advocating for the proclamations.

Seventeen counties in Wisconsin reported human trafficking in their counties in a survey conducted by the State Office of Justice Assistance in 2008. Dane County is one of them. Do you know what is going on here in your own backyard? How much does law enforcement pay attention to this? How are victims treated? These are some questions that we can all ask. The survey mentioned above found that many agencies and law enforcement do not know much about human trafficking nor what to do about the victims or how to recognize the victims. What role does CWU have in individual communities in asking the questions? You can go to [www.slavefreemadison.org](http://www.slavefreemadison.org) and [www.resueandrestore.org](http://www.resueandrestore.org) for information and resources. Please contact Susan Becker at 608-231-1817 or [sbecker4@tds.net](mailto:sbecker4@tds.net) if you have some ideas or questions. If we work together and with agencies in our areas, we can be change agents for the victims of Human Trafficking.

## SlaveFree Madison Film Festival

SlaveFree Madison is presenting a free movie screening Event promoting Human Trafficking Awareness Month on January 29, 2011 from noon until 9 p.m. at Pres House (on UW Library Mall), 731 State Street, Madison. You will find the film poster included in this newsletter. The back has the listing and times of the films in more detail. This presents an excellent chance to learn more about this modern scourge.

## Ecumenical Choir

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: January 28, February 11,25, March 11,25, April 8, 15.

## **On a Sad Note**

It is with deep sorrow that we report the loss of two pillars of Christian faith and Church Women United service. At the celebration, we learned of the death of Alice Daniels on January 9. She had celebrated her 89th birthday on December 23, surrounded by her loving family. Her memorial service at First Congregational Church will take place later in the spring.

Monday's paper carried the obituary of Alice Schacht, who died January 10. A Memorial Service is planned for February 19, 2011, at 2:30 P.M. in the Chapel at the First Congregational Church, followed by a reception. The two Alices died a day apart from each other. Alice Daniels and Alice Schacht were both members of First Congregational Church. Both served on the MEC board for years. Rita Honnold believes Alice S. was the one who got that started in 1976. She started the Ecumenical Choir in 1985. She was president of CWU for two terms. Jenny Armstrong also saluted Alice S. as one of the founders of the Ecumenical Choir and for her love of music. Our sympathy goes out to their families and their church.