



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2012 No. 8

The Crossing: Quest Trips

Nikki Bown, Quest Coordinator

April Forum

Saturday, April 14, 2012

The Crossing, 1127 University Avenue

9:00 a.m. Gathering, Coffee

9:30 a.m. Welcome, Announcements

10:00 a.m. Program

April Forum: The Crossing

We will meet Saturday morning, April 14, at The Crossing, 1127 University Avenue, for a program on their Quest Trips. Our speaker is Nikki Bown, who is the Quest Coordinator. The Badger Quest program is an exciting way for students to become familiar with the mission and core values of The Crossing. Through the Quest program, The Crossing offers a variety of trips to some of the world's most complex and fascinating locations. The work of The Crossing aims to provide a Christian community at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where students are free to explore and affirm their relationship with God, each other, and the world. They are a progressive, theologically open ministry focused on the life of Jesus Christ, and seek to offer opportunities for students to be embraced by indiscriminate love of God while living out the teachings of the gospel. The Crossing community celebrates the rich history of many Christian traditions yet exists emphatically in the present. The students are grounded in worship, maintained by fellowship, and seriously engaged with the problems and possibilities of the world. This student center is sponsored by American Baptists, United Methodists, and UCC. For more information, go to the website: www.crossingministries.org

To avoid all parking problems, there will be VAN TRANSPORTATION from Mount Zion Baptist Church to the Crossing and return. The vans will leave MZBC for The Crossing at 8:30 a.m., so try to arrive by 8:20 if you choose this easy option. Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis at the UW lot behind The Crossing. Enter from Charter Street. (From the west side, left turn from West Johnson Street; from the east side, left turn from University Avenue.) An alternative is paid parking under Grainger Hall, which is two blocks from the Crossing. You pay as you exit. For this, you turn left onto Brooks Street. Because parking can be limited, please carpool.

World Day of Prayer

We had an excellent turn-out of 50 attendees for World Day of Prayer, despite the heavy snow. We met at Oakwood Village University Woods, formerly called Oakwood West. Being at Oakwood helped, since residents didn't have to encounter snow to attend. In fact, the seven women who were program participants were from the Oakwood community. Pastor Gwen Brandfass, chaplain, welcomed us. In honor of the Malaysian women who wrote the service, Malaysian fabrics, clothes, an umbrella brightened the window-scape of falling snow. The Ecumenical Choir provided A Friendly World to begin our worship, and sang the Lords Prayer in Malaysian as part of the program, Let Justice Prevail. The prayer of confession reflects the tenor of the program and calls us to reflection upon our world. Righteous and gracious God, we come before you seeking mercy and healing. We are burdened by unjust and unrighteous actions around us. We have seen the emergence of violence to quell differences both in political and religious arenas: Elected government has been robbed of its rightful place through unright-

eous dealings. Voices for truth and justice are being silenced. We acknowledge our lack of awareness and lack of concern toward these injustices. Forgive our reluctance and indifference toward victims of unjust systems and people broken in body, mind or spirit. Most righteous God, have mercy upon us according to your loving kindness. Be gracious to us and hear our prayer. We thank you for your promise that when we confess our sins you are merciful, faithful, and just, and we are forgiven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We had one example of local injustice, thanks to Donna Turner, who told of Madison's experience with the Greenbush area at Park and Regent. The area was demolished for renewal that was never done. It was a devastating time for the residents. One small event where justice did prevail was the survival of a grapevine brought from Italy by a woman who was the last one to leave her home. When she finally agreed to move, her grapevine was transplanted to Olbrich Gardens where it is now thriving.

We concluded with a time of fellowship and refreshment, thanks to Beverly Davison and friends, whose Malaysian-inspired treats allowed predominant flavors of coconut, pineapple and chocolate to keep our minds on Malaysia even as we contemplated the way home through swirling flakes. Our thanks to all made this a special day of worship.

Upcoming Events

David Lyons Lectures at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave., are also on April 14, from 9 a.m. until after the 2:45 p.m. book signing. This year John Dominic Crossan is the featured speaker. He will be speaking at 10 a.m. on Jesus Parables & Gods Kingdom and at 1 p.m. on Gospels as Mega-Parables about Jesus. Cost is \$50, including a box lunch. You can register online at www.fumc.org

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 March 9 and 23, April 13 and 20. We will sing at May Friendship Day on May 4.

Concert for Benefit of Chinese Orphan Project

Flutes n Harp will take place Sunday afternoon, April 15 at 2:30 at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Avenue. Admission is free and open to the public, with a free-will offering for the benefit of the Chinese Orphan Project. With the funds from last years concert, sales of concert CDs, and 42 individual sponsors, FBC members and friends are currently supporting 80 Chinese orphan children, providing them an opportunity to go to school with proper school supplies and books, adequate clothing and a good diet. These funds support otherwise-forgotten children, who live in crushing poverty on the lowest rung of Chinese society. Now they can look forward to a bright and happy future with an education that will allow them to support themselves and be an asset to their community. Most of the children became orphans when their parents died of AIDS after contracting the HIV virus from contaminated blood collection procedures. This year, the orphan project has expanded to include orphans whose parent died of other causes and who live in similarly dire circumstances.

Linda Mintener reports, We have a wonderful concert planned this year. This year, the talented six-year-old Jadon Colbert will again open the concert with *Hes Got the Whole World in His Hands*. Madison harpist Linda Warren join us for some charming flute/harp/piano pieces including Mozarts flute & harp concerto and a Berlioz trio for two flutes and harp. The Madison Flute Choir, with its array of piccolos, C flutes, alto and bass flutes, will perform again, as will the First Flutes (a First Baptist Church flute group), and new flute ensemble, Flutes a Mode. Cellist Martha Maxwell will again accompany us for an enchanting flute duet by Cimarosa. You will hear a variety of classical music, including pieces with an Asian flavor, such as Song of India and Kashmiri Love Song. Flutists will include Linda Mintener, Roberta Brokaw (Linda's former music school colleague from

California), Liz Marshall (Roberta's former flute student now with the Madison Symphony), Marilyn Chohaney (with the Oakwood Chamber Players), and First Baptists own Ted Reinke on both flute and piano. Come join us, learn more about our Orphan Project, and contribute as you can to this very worthy cause.

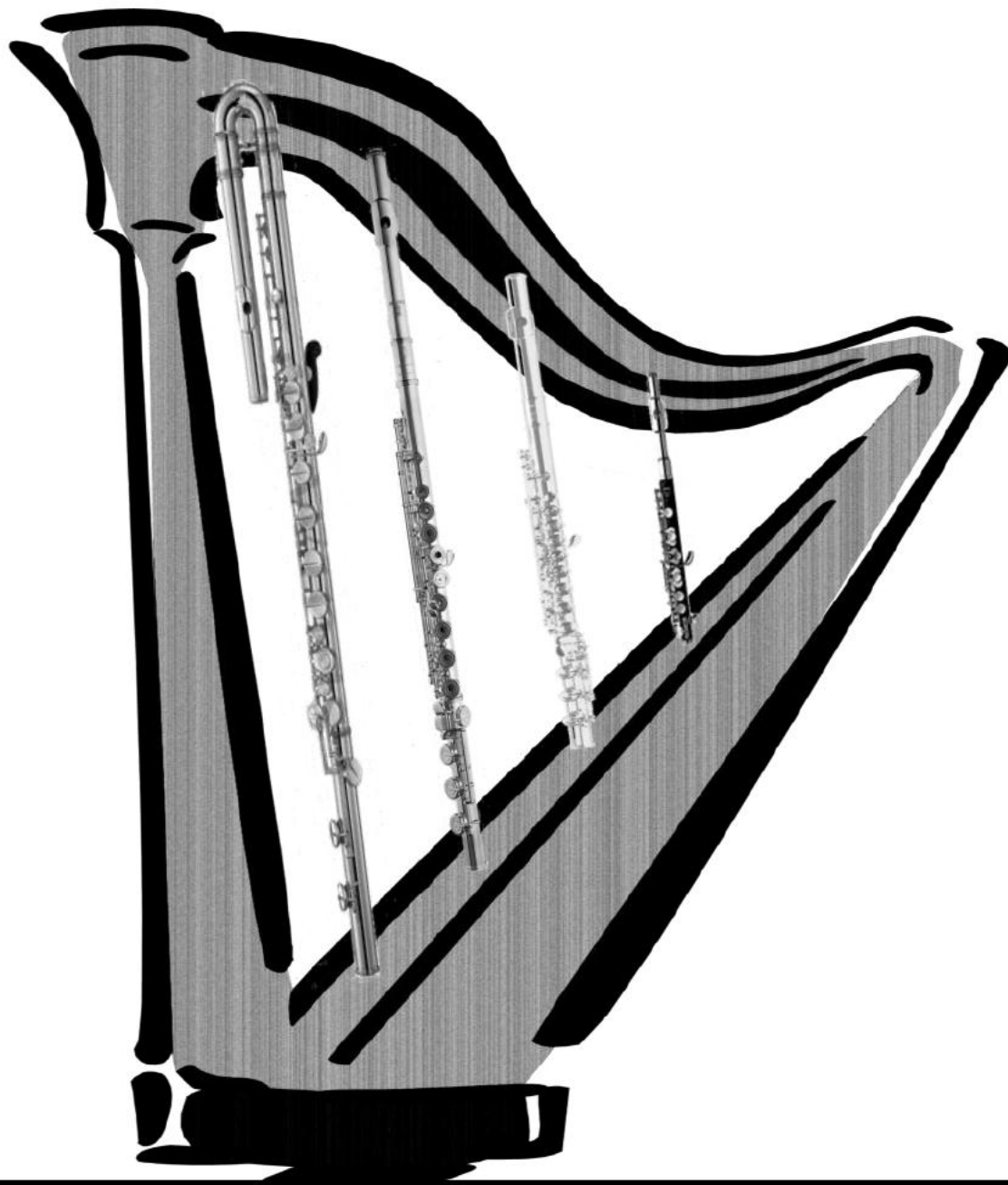
Worthy Cause

At our World Day of Prayer Celebration, Fred Brancel told us of a gathering at the capitol to push for changing Wisconsin's prison system. Though our state populations are similar in size, Minnesota has less prisons and many less inmates. Their system provides more support and costs much less money. Watch for news of this movement and for chances to press for meaningful prison reform in our state.

Flutes 'n Harp

Sunday April 15, 2012 -- 2:30PM

First Baptist Church 518 N. Franklin Ave. Madison, WI



An afternoon of flute and harp music. Performances ranging from solos, duets to a complete flute choir. Free Admission. Offering will be taken to benefit Chinese Children orphaned by AIDS, etc.