



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2014 No. 8

**April Forum
Friday, April 4, 2014**

Middleton Outreach Ministry

**Al Ripp
Middleton Outreach Ministry
Coordinator**

**9:00 am Gathering and Coffee
9:30 am Welcome and announcements
10:00 am Program**

**Gateway Community Church
3510 High Road, Middleton, WI 53562**

World Day of Prayer--Streams in the Desert

Some 30 people gathered at Faith Community Baptist Church on March 7 for the beautiful worship celebration written by WDP Egypt. A warm welcome by the church and Pastor David Smith provided a tasty time of fellowship before moving into the sanctuary for announcements and the worship service. After a welcome from Tracy Smith, pastor's wife, the Ecumenical Women's Choir opened the service with Wade in the Water. The service provided inspiration and food for thought.

Invitation to Worship: We invite you to pray with us before God, whose love and mercy flows among us like streams in the desert. Hear, oh God, hear our voices in the deserts in our lives. Prayer of Confession

(based on Is.44) Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another in many ways: sometimes through negligence, other times through weakness or stubbornness. We confess our intolerance and disregard of our neighbors. We are truly sorry, and repent of all these things, whether intentional, or not. As people of faith, we want to transform our repentance in prayerful action; to be "like trees by flowing streams. "Forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your great and precious name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: May God pour on us the water of forgiveness and grant us peace. Thus says God, your maker, your helper, who formed you in the womb: Do not be afraid, for I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground, I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a spring meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. After singing Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, The Egyptian Context....God of wonder, both past and present, we admire the wisdom that is discovered in history, and in the ways it brings people together. . . . God of wonder, both past and present, we celebrate the river that waters the crops that we grow and the faith that nurtures and sustains our communities. . . . God of wonder, both past and present, we thank you and praise you, asking that young people--Christian and Muslim--may one day see peace and justice gush forth like streams flowing in the desert. After singing Spirit of the Living God, we heard from Susan Becker about her visit to Egypt, and the symbols used by Coptic Christians in their worship.

The theme of the offering, Making Streams in the Desert (based on IS. 41:18-20. I will make rivers run on barren heights and fountains bubble up in the

valleys: I will turn the wilderness into a lake, and dry ground into a spring. I will put cedar trees in the wilderness, acacias, myrtles, and olives. In the desert I will plant the cypress, the elm and the evergreen side by side, so that all may see and know, all may observe and understand that the hand of God has done this.

After the choir sang, Waters Ripple and Flow, and prayers of intercession, we sang She Who Trusts in Me, and left with a unison blessing. May God always guide you, giving relief in desert places. May God give strength to your bones and make you like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never run dry.

Expanding our February Forum: 2014 Spring Events Sponsored by local Bright Stars of Bethlehem, the Southwest Association of the United Church of Christ Bethlehem Partnership, Christ Presbyterian Church, Midvale Lutheran Church, the Havens Center, and Edgewood College.

3:00, March 31 – Mitri Raheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and director of Diyar Consortium, will be speaking at Edgewood College (Anderson Auditorium, Predolin Humanities Center) as part of his book tour for his new book: Faith in the Face of Empire: the Bible Through Palestinian Eyes

May 5-6 - Mark Braverman, author of Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land and A Wall in Jerusalem: Hope, Healing and the Struggle for Peace in Israel and Palestine, will be in Madison. Mark is an American Jew with deep family roots in the Holy Land. Mark is on the advisory board of Friends of Sabeel, co-founder of Friends of Tent of Nations (a nonprofit dedicated to supporting Palestinian land rights), and Program Director for Kairos USA (a movement to unify and mobilize American Christians to respond to the suffering and hopes of Palestinian Christians as articulated in Kairos Palestine).

- 7:00, May 5 – Mark will be speaking at The Pyle Center on the UW campus
- 8:30-10:00, May 6 – Mark will gather for breakfast with pastors and lay leaders at Christ Presbyterian Church

- 2:00, May 6 – Mark will be in the Anderson Auditorium, Edgewood College

For more information about these events, contact Bonnie Van Overbeke at bonnievano@aol.com ECUMENICAL ACTION Church Women United in Madison supports and works with the Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice and the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin. Both groups offer opportunities to take action on issues that fit with our Quadrennial Priorities as Church Women United.

The first comes from the Wisconsin Network For Peace & Justice, dated 3/5/2014: Action Alert 1: Push back the frac attack Background: Monday's hearing on state Senator Tom Tiffany's new "Kneecapping Local Communities Bill" (SB 632/AB 816) was filled with local officials who spoke out against the measure, which would prevent local governments from enacting regulations to prevent new frac sand mining or the expansion of existing mines. The HYPERLINK "<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/wisconsin-towns-group-reverses-stance-wont-back-new-sand-mine-rule-b99217228z1-248243601.html>" Wisconsin Towns Association opposes the bill. WNPJ sent committee members HYPERLINK "<http://www.wnpj.org/node/8840>" our resolution calling for a halt to frac sand mining, which more than 75 grassroots groups have endorsed. Opposition is growing, but the bill's not dead yet!

Take Action: Call your state legislators today and urge them to oppose SB 632/AB 816, especially as it guts local democracy and keeps communities from protecting their residents' health and environment. HYPERLINK "<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/waml.aspx>" Click here to find your legislators' direct contact information, or call the state legislative hotline at 608-266-9960 or toll-free at 1-800-362-9472.

Contact for more info: WNPJ's Environment Work Group, 608-250-9240, HYPERLINK "<mailto:carl@wnpj.org>" carl@wnpj.org

With the concern about the impact of frac sand mining on the environment and health, this is an issue that relates to our priorities of "Health: Promote the

health and well-being of all people” and Environmental Care: Promote personal, communal and governmental decisions that express care for all.”

The Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice is advocating for raising the minimum wage in Wisconsin. In January Rep. Cory Mason introduced Assembly Bill 686, Wisconsin's Fair Minimum Wage Act, to raise Wisconsin's minimum wage to \$10.10/hour by 2016. A report released by the Center on Wisconsin Strategy February 24 found that the bill would benefit 587,000 workers and the state's economy. Urge your legislators to support raising the minimum wage. This is one of the actions we can take that is listed under the priority of Economic Justice: “Work for policies that assure living wages and equitable market conditions in the globalized marketplace.”

More recently Sen. Glenn Grothman and Rep Chris Kapenga cosponsored a bill that would no longer require businesses under contract with local governments to pay their employees a living wage if any federal or state money is part of the contract. ICWJ opposes the bill which essentially bars local governments from enacting their own living wage ordinances. A study found that living wage ordinances passed in 140 communities nationwide raised the wages for low-income workers with little, if any, negative effects on employment or taxes.

Gloria Carter, chair of Ecumenical Action

HYPERLINK "mailto:carter53597@tds.net"
carter53597@tds.net 608-849-789
CWU Business--Notes from March 7

Note to officers. Yearly reports are due a week before May 2 meeting.

MEC Directory in progress. Every year we update the directory, which covers social agencies and churches. Personnel changes, address changes, all the changes that affect information in the directory. We need help to telephone churches and verify information, get changes. You can call from home. Get information sheets from Shirley Robbins (608-233-3581) or Ann Sowaske (608-238-7903).

Nominations for CWU offices for election in May. If you are interested in serving or know of someone else who like to serve, let Shirley Robbins know.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Faith Bauman spoke about this world movement in 150 countries that uses offers of least coins to support women's projects and programs around the world. The ecumenical international committee receives thousands of requests and chooses carefully. Bring your church's FLC offering to the May celebration.

Also concerning May celebration, Shirley Stennis-Williams announced that we will honor key women, those vital links to their churches and gracious hostesses for forums and celebrations.

Annual state CWU Conference will be in Platteville on September 27 and they are encouraging as many women as possible to join together on that occasion.

Also note that the UN this month is having a conference on women, with emphasis on third world countries, health, etc., in Europe. A local UN conference is scheduled for Edgewood College in March.
Extending the Stage

On April 25 and 27, 2014, Madison Opera will present HYPERLINK "http://www.madisonopera.org/performances-2013-2014/dead_man_walking/"Dead Man Walking, a Jake Heggie opera based on the book of the same name by Sister Helen Prejean. Heggie and Sister Helen will be in Madison for opening night and will speak at First Congregational Church on April 24.

Because of the social issues raised by the opera, Madison Opera is partnering with a number of Dane County organizations to present an array of educational activities in the months leading up to the performances. Ranging from panels to previews, films to museum tours, and culminating with the discussion between Sister Helen and Jake Heggie, Madison Opera is truly extending the stage into our community for this life-changing opera, and we hope you will join us as often as you can.

This page will be updated throughout the year, as events are added and refined. To receive e-mail updates specifically about Dead Man Walking activities, please sign-up for the Extending the Stage HYPERLINK "http://form.jotform.us/form/32945443091152"email list. For more information please "mailto:marketing@madisonopera.org"contact

ct us.

News From Churches: Upcoming Opportunity. Flute Echoes In The Wind, the 8th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert, will provide an afternoon of fantastic and delightful flute music on March 30, 2014, at 2:30 pm at First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, WI. Admission free, with a free-will offering opportunity to support and provide education for more than 80 orphaned children in China's rural Henan Province who lost their parents to HIV/AIDS contracted from a blood collection scheme.

Included, a black and white poster, and concert prospectus.

A Flute Concert for the Benefit of Chinese Orphans

Don't miss this fantastic and delightful flute concert featuring guest flutists who are some of the world's greatest flute performers. Whether you are a flutist or not, if you like music, you will enjoy a pleasant afternoon of wonderful and enjoyable music performed at the highest level, and all for a good cause.

The Concert is the annual fundraiser for the Chinese Orphan Project of First Baptist Church.

Admission is free. A free-will offering is taken that is used to support and provide education for more than 80 orphaned children in China's rural Henan Province, most of whom were orphaned when their parents died after giving blood in a blood collection scheme that spread the HIV/AIDS virus.

Alexa Still, worldrenowned flutist and professor at Oberlin College Conservatory will play the virtuoso Chopin Variations on a Theme by Rossini with flute choir accompaniment, the challenging Burton Sonata, a contemporary piece by Ian Clark, and some familiar traditional Irish tunes with her 9 year old harpist daughter whom she adopted from China James Pellerite, former 1st chair flute with the Philadelphia Orchestra and retired Indiana University flute professor will perform contemporary compositions he has commissioned on the Native American flute, an instrument in which he has become an expert and for which he has been an avid promoter since his retirement from IU. He will be joined by

modern flute, cello, and piano for various pieces. Patricia George, internationally known flutist who has traveled the world performing, teaching, and presenting her "Famous Flute Spa" master class, editor of Flute Talk Magazine, and retired professor of flute at Brigham Young University will play the flashy Doppler Andante & Rondo with Linda Mintener who is a Madison flutist and flute teacher, student of James Pellerite and coordinator of the Chinese Orphan Project for First Baptist Church. Roberta Brokaw, a retired professor of flute at California State University East Bay/Hayward, will join us for the 7th year to play a beautiful Bach trio with Elizabeth Marshall (Roberta's former student and now 2nd chair flute with the Madison Symphony and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra), and on bass flute, Linda Mintener (Roberta's colleague at IU). The Madison Flute Choir, an organization of 20+ flutists of various levels, with its array of piccolos, silver and gold C flutes, altos and bass flutes, will accompany Alexa and play Remembrances by Kelly Via. Its elite Chamber Ensemble, a smaller group of advanced flutists, will play Echoes in the Wind, a surround-sound piece by Phyllis Louke and Faure's lovely Cantique de Jean Racine with Ken Stancer, the well-known Music Director and Organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, on organ. Several of the above will join in an ensemble to play Medley of Old Chinese Folk Songs arranged by Matt Johnston and dedicated to "Linda Mintener and her work with the Chinese Orphan Project."

Annual Contributions & Donor Contributions Form for Church Women United of Madison

Please Note: These contributions will be used for the general operating expenses of CWU of Madison, as well as for the Celebration materials, choir music, annual donations to selected community social services, and an annual contribution to Church Women United of Wisconsin. GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES include, in part, the office rent, insurance, bulk mail permit and the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter, and miscellaneous supplies needed throughout the year.

Please send in contributions by November 30 of each year. Our financial year ends on December 31

of each year. See form on next page.

FROM: _____
Name of church/organization or individual donor.

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____
For church or organization.

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

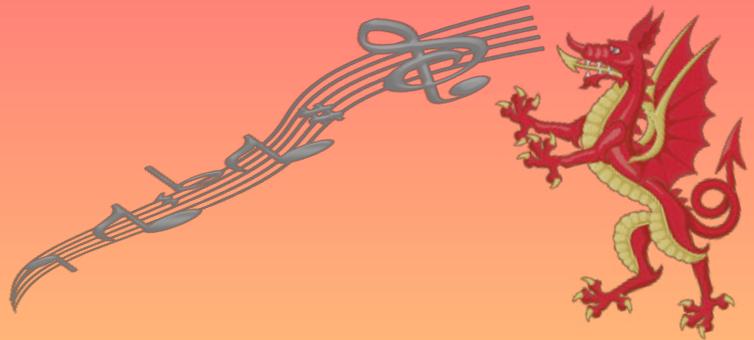
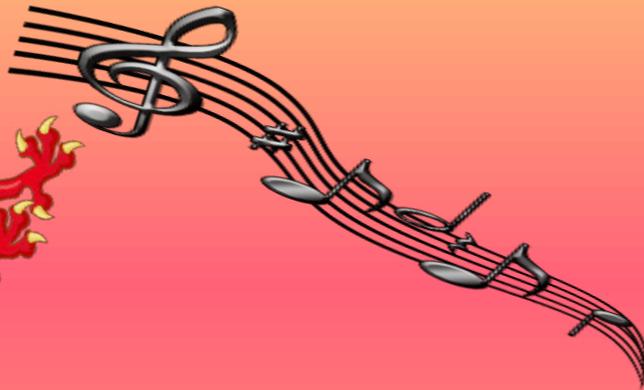
Please make your check(s) payable to: Church Women United of Madison and send to:

Marleen S. Lippert
Treasurer, CWU of Madison
6329 Scandia Lane
McFarland, WI 53558

Thank you for your financial assistance in carrying out the various projects of CWU. Your contributions are sincerely appreciate

Free Admission

Flute Echoes In The Wind



8th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert

March 30, 2014 2:30PM First Baptist Church

518 N. Franklin Ave. Madison, Wi