



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2010 No. 8

April Forum & Potluck
Dinner
April 9, 2010

*Living on the Edge in the
Current Economic
Environment*

Edward Lee, Acting President/CEO
Urban League of Greater Madison

6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
(provided by the CWU Board and the Cord
Builders)

6:45 p.m. Program

Fitchburg Memorial United
Church of Christ
5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

Message from Ann

World Day of Prayer was an exuberant celebration with the African energy shown by the seven people from Cameroon. I want to thank Beverly Davison and her participants for a wonderful event at the First Baptist Church.

An upcoming project for our CWU is assembling hygiene/health kits for people in Chile and Haiti, through Church World Service, located in New Windsor, MD.

To assemble a kit, purchase:

- one washcloth
- one hand towel measuring approximately 16"x 28"
- one wide tooth, sturdy comb
- one nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- one bar of soap in wrapper(bath size)
- one toothbrush in original packaging
- 6 band-aids

Seal all items in a one gallon plastic bag with zipper closure.

Send two dollars for each bag for shipping costs.

This can be done by a group in your church. For further information and the mailing address you can write or call me at bsowaske@sbcglobal.net
phone 238- 7903

---Ann Sowaske

World Day of Prayer

More than 70 people attended the Sunday afternoon celebration of World Day of Prayer at First Baptist Church. At least 10 were men, and we had some young people also. Particularly exciting, members of the Cameroon community of Madison joined us both as worshippers and participants in the service that was written by the women of Cameroon. After

the Rev. Mark Clinger welcomed us, Jean-Rene Watchou introduced us to Cameroon. A native of Cameroon, he is on the staff of Christ Presbyterian Church in charge of international outreach. Then we joined in joyous worship filled with song. We all have the words and melodies of Over My Head and Let Everything that Breathes Praise the Lord circling in our heads.

The choir of First Baptist combined with the Ecumenical Choir to lead the congregation in music. Both choir directors, Jacqueline Colbert, and Jenny Armstrong, took part, switching between singing and directing. Jacqueline sang the verses of On Eagle's Wings as a solo, with choir and congregation on the refrain. First Baptist's Theodore Reinke accompanied on piano.

Mary Tegomoh and ASCAM--Association of Cameroonians of Madison sang music from Cameroon in their native language while we received the WDP offering. And when we closed the service and moved to the Linden Parlor for refreshments, the Cameroon choir led us out with panache. What an honor and joy to share WDP with women from the country that wrote this year's service. We were further honored that the Wisconsin CWU State President, Dorothy Wetterlin, and a friend came from La-Crosse to join us for World Day of Prayer. She was enthusiastic about the worship experience.

Afterwards, the delicious array of cookies, bars, breads, cheese, veggies, coffee and punch gave us a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. Thank you, First Baptist, for hosting this meaningful celebration.

April Forum

The April Forum is on Friday, but at a different time. We will meet for dinner at 6 p.m., with the program to follow at 6:45. The dinner is a potluck, provided by the CWU Board and the Cord Builders. Our program is Living on the Edge in the Current Economic Environment, presented by Edward Lee, the Acting President/CEO of the Urban League of Greater Madison.

Fitchburg Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, is hosting our meeting. So come enjoy the fellowship, and encourage other church members to join us, especially those who can't make the usual Friday meetings.

Annual Reports

Alert from Shirley Robbins: The new CWU Annual Reports will need to "go to press" by mid-April, to be distributed at our May Friendship Celebration on May 7. (This is not the CWU or MEC Directory.) Officers and Committee Chairs, please be thinking about your reports. I hope to have them all by the beginning of April, since Dorothy Whitcomb will need the material to put into final form. She does a great job lining it all up! When together she and I have it ready, I take it to Kinko's for printing.

My suggestion as always is to look at last year's report and either "tweak" it or write something new. If you have kept your copies of the year's Board minutes, you may find reminders there of each committee's activities. Reports can be short. This request is going to the President, Vice-President, Secretary (last May Friendship annual meeting minutes), Treasurer, chairs of Ecumenical Action, Ecumenical Development, Enabling Services, Nominating Committee, By-Laws, MEC Treasurer, Finance Committee. Also the Newsletter Editor, Fellowship of Least Coin Chair, UN Representative, MEC Coordinator, Choir Contact.

New address for Shirley Alexander: 6209 Mineral Point Road #1105 (05), 233-1457, vernie818@sbcglobal.net

Those Women We Honor: Alice Schacht

Alice Schacht's lasting legacy to Church Women United in Madison is the Ecumenical Choir. She began it, developed and trained its singers, and directed it for 14 years.

In an interview some years ago, Alice said, "I was not a member of CWU when I was invited to sing at a meeting many years ago, perhaps about 1968. Later, I joined the group, and one year was asked to be president." She said that she kept hearing the question, How can we interest younger women in CWU? She thought that music would interest women of all ages. So in a newspaper article she invited women of all faiths to sing four times a year at CWU celebrations and the December forum. That was the beginning of the CWU Ecumenical Choir, in 1982.

At first, CWU members sang; then they invited friends to sing. This sometimes led to choir members joining CWU, after learning about our goals and projects. Alice turned the direction of the Choir over to others in May 1996, when health problems made it difficult to continue. Alice is still thought of as the “mother” of the choir.

Alice also served CWU as president in the late 1970's, and was honored as a Valiant Woman in 1982.

In 1971 Alice retired from full-time social work to pursue her dream of uniting churches, social service agencies, and other community organizations in providing “preventive social work”. This meant coordination and joint planning to address human needs and problems before they become desperate. The Wisconsin State Journal of August 20, 1971, published a long article about Alice and her work, with a picture of her as a beautiful woman with a humanitarian purpose.

Other Announcements

First United Methodist Lyons Lectures

Saturday, April 10, is a very special event at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison. The Lyons Lectures welcome Bishop John Shelby Spong, Doors open at 9 a.m. for registration. At 10 a.m., Bishop Spong will speak on The Crisis in Believing, followed by Q & A. 11:45 is a box lunch. At 1 p.m., he will speak on What Does It Mean to Call Jesus Divine?, again with Q&A.

“Bishop Spong is a retired Episcopal Bishop of Newark, New Jersey. During his tenure, he was regarded as a fearless advocate for church reform, and was a ‘hero to some, a heretic to others.’ Yet he considers himself a committed Christian who has spent a lifetime studying the Bible and whose life has been deeply shaped by it.” Contact First United Methodist Church, Madison, at 608-256-9061 to request a registration form or download a copy via their website at www.fumc.org

4th Annual MALC Quilt Auction/Pie Sale

Saturday, April 17, 2010, at noon, at Christ Lutheran Church, 200 S. Main St., DeForest, WI. Donations of quilts, pies, aprons, table runners, wall hangings and placemats are welcome. Proceeds help MALC's support of a chaplaincy program at the Dane County

Jail. They have two wonderful Jail Chaplains working with more than 12,000 inmates who pass through the Dane county Jail each year and the law enforcement personnel who supervise them. Dane County Jail is a County, State and Federal Jail.

Most welcome will be your attendance at the auction. Marc Lovicott from Channel 3 News in Madison will be the guest auctioneer. For more information or to donate, contact any of the people listed below.

Anne Staniforth & Beth Krey Ruth Meese Craig Collins 608-846-3352 608-846-3621 malc@tds.net ow4222-malc@yahoo.com Project Coordinators Secretary, MALC MALC Executive Chair

CWU Tackles Type II Diabetes

The 2008-2012 Quadrennial Priority for CWU is "Building a World Fit for All God's Children". One of the Building Blocks is Health: To promote the health and well-being of all people. In addition to working to assure comprehensive coverage for all children and adults and working for policies that provide accessible and affordable health care, CWU will support programs that educate and encourage healthy lifestyles and promote prevention.

In 2009-2010 CWU has decided to face the growing epidemic of people who are becoming diabetic. Much can be done to prevent the development of Type II diabetes and CWU has produced a guide entitled " Tips for a Healthy Lifestyle for All People: First Steps Toward Living Healthy". The guide includes tips on exercise, healthy food, salt, shopping list for healthy food, meal suggestions and recipes. Your local unit president should have a copy of this guide. It can be reproduced so ask for a copy and put it to use or share it with you family and friends. Taking care of your health is one of the things we can do to show that we are good stewards of the health that God has given us! Lifestyle changes CAN make a difference in preventing the development of Type II diabetes in many people. And prevention is a worthy goal. No one wants to develop Type II diabetes!

Help Stop Human Trafficking

Sex trafficking of children is a growing abomination in our world today. Even in Wisconsin we have sex and labor trafficking occurring with children and

adults. A group in Madison called Slave Free Madison is working on this issue and will soon have resources available. CWU is part of this group which will soon be making presentations and educating people around the state on this issue.

What can you do to stop this abomination? Here are some suggestions:

- An ethical retailer, The Body Shop USA, and ECPAT- USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking), along with the Somaly Mam Foundation, are joining hands to raise awareness and resources to help keep the world's children free from trafficking. Visit The Body Shop USA near you and purchase their "Soft Hands Kind Heart Hand Cream." The Body Shop USA will donate a percentage of each purchase to ECPAT USA. You can also purchase the hand cream online:

<http://www,thebodyshopusa.com/prod1029823>. Donate directly to ECPAT- USA at www.ecpatusa.org. Its programs continue to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and make sure that every child enjoys his or her right to grow up free.

- Educate yourself and tell your friends. The more people who understand the issue, the more hands will be joined in ending trafficking. Learn more about the issue by visiting the ECPAT-USA Website: www.ecpatusa.org.

- Purchase a Tassatag and put it on your luggage. Tassatags are bright, heavy, hand-woven cotton luggage tags that help you spot your luggage more easily, while reclaiming children's lives. they are practical, environmentally sensitive, fair-trade and with it you can make a difference. www.tassatag.org.

- When you travel, use a company that has signed the Code of conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. When you use a Code of Conduct company, you are using a company that has voluntarily agreed to help prevent child sex tourism. find the full list of signatories at http://www.thecode.org/index.php?page=6_3.

- Purchase Fair Trade products whenever possible
- Contact Susan Becker at 608-231-1817 or email sbecker4@tds.net if you would like information about Trafficking and what Church Women United is doing about it. We can work together for justice for the victims of Trafficking.

Ecumenical Choir

We meet at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, in the 3rd floor choir room for our practices. Our practice and sing dates are as follows: Practices: March 12, March 26, April 9, and April 23, 2010. We will practice from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. on each of these dates.

We will sing on May 7, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. for May Friendship Day.

I invite all of you to join our choir on these dates.

--- Jenny Armstrong