



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter May, 2011 No. 9

Church Women United in Madison May Planning Meeting May 27, 2011, 10 a.m. Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road

Mark your calendars for the annual planning meeting of CWU in Madison. We will meet at 10 a.m. on May 27 at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Bring your ideas for programs, possibilities for churches available for meetings, and all information you wish to share. Bring a bag lunch so that we will be sure to have enough time to cover everything. Officers and Key Women (Cord Builders) are important contributors to this meeting, but this important planning event is not just for them. All are invited to share their ideas to make CWU's 2011-2012 a meaningful and worthwhile year of programs and partnerships.

May Friendship Day

Over 70 people came to May Friendship Day, with a fair sprinkling of men among the church women. We shared the joys of spring and the blessings of friendship as we enjoyed a delicious lunch. The business meeting bracketed the meal. We installed officers, with the Rev. Lou Ness, a good friend of Bethany, officiating. Officers elected this year are Vice President, Shirley Robbins; Treasurer, Marleen Lippert; Ecumenical Celebrations Chairs (World Community Day, Audrey Hinger; Human Rights Day, Shirley Stennis-Williams; World Day of Prayer, Ann Sowaske; and May Friendship Day, Crystal Betterley);

Enabling Services, Thelma Reynolds; By-laws, Donna Turner; Nominating Committee, Shirley Robbins; and MEC Treasurer, Rita Honnold. Ann Sowaske also serves as our web master. Continuing officers include President, Jacqueline Rodman; Secretary, Barbara Eggleston; Ecumenical Development, Shirley Stennis-Williams; and Ecumenical Action, Susan Becker.

After lunch, after reports received, Susan Becker called our attention to items on our tables. The Petition on the Rights of the Child is still in need of circulation, and she encouraged us to take these to our churches for signatures, and for any other signatures we could collect. She supplied the address so that people can register on line to be an organ donor: YessIwillwisconsin.com

A second paper available on our lunch tables detailed important information about the importance of fully funding the United Nations.

Susan also supplied fliers for the public education forum on Madison Child Sex Trafficking, featuring Claudine O'Leary and a panel of local experts, Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at the Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa St., Madison, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. [See flyer on separate page. Please post for your congregation.]

Our state president, Dorothy Wetterlin, has asked a focus of the state board to be a challenge to other states to raise at least \$500 to help women and children in Japan who are suffering the effects of the tsunami.

Susan also called to our attention two petitions on the registration table: one on senior care, the other regarding the drone facility proposed for Fort McCoy.

At the conclusion of our business meeting, we adjourned to the sanctuary for the celebration of

May Friendship Day, Living Our Friendship, Passing on the Key. The service began:

"Today we are gathered to give thanks to God for the 70 years of work in Church Women United. We ask for continued guidance in the years ahead as we strive to meet our four common goals:

to grow in our faith and to extend our vision of what it means to Christian women living and working in society, to strengthen the visibility of the ecumenical community, to work for a just, peaceful and caring society, to use responsibly and creatively the resources God has entrusted to us--our intelligence, our time, our energy and our money--as we carry out the mission of Christ through Church Women United."

Then all prayed: "Creator God, grant us the wisdom and fortitude to carry out these goals to support women all over the world, to assist any women in need and to honor You. Bless each woman present today, and help us to use our rich diversity in age, lifestyles, socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to strengthen our mission. In Your name we pray, Amen"

In the course of the service, we honored the key women (cord builders) who have served our unit and their churches during our program year. And we presented the CWU's Valiant Woman Award to Shirley Robbins, who grew in service from singing in the choir to serving in many offices of our group. She has handled publicity for the last several years, reaching out to the press and media to get the word out about our programs.

The Ecumenical Choir sang, joined by two flutists, Linda Mintener and Betty Bielefeld. It made a joyful conclusion to our program year.

Announcements

Nebraska Wesleyan Choir

On Tuesday, May 17, the Nebraska Wesleyan Choir from Nebraska, will present a concert at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 E. Gorham Street at 7 p.m. This stop in Madison is the first concert on the way to its choir tour to Europe. The fee concert is open to the public. Come and be inspired by this excellent collage choir.

Action Alert---Proposal would allow more guns in public places

Background: A new bill now being circulated in the

Wisconsin legislature would allow people to carry loaded, hidden guns in parks, banks, grocery stores, and other public places. The new bill is a significant expansion of previous proposals, removing an earlier requirement that those who apply for "concealed carry" permits receive training (by contrast, receiving a hunting license in Wisconsin requires completion of a gun safety course.) Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence opposes the bill, noting that under the new bill it would not be possible to ban concealed weapons even in a domestic abuse shelter.

Take Action: Please contact your State Senator and Representative to urge them to oppose the concealed carry bill. Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (WNPJ) member group Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort has also set up an online petition to the legislature, and reports that more than 2000 people have signed it in only two days.

Contact for more info: Heidi Rose, WAVE Educational Fund, 414-351-9283, wave@waveedfund.org

Celebrate 70 Years!

Church Women United, Inc. 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 243 New York, New York 10115

An opportunity to celebrate 'CWU! If you are interested in attending, contact 'Dorothy 'Wetterlin, the 'Wisconsin State President, at 608-788-3941 or email dwetterlinaa@centurytel.net. She is organizing transportation to New Jersey. What an opportunity this would be to celebrate CWU and meet others from around the country! For more information, contact Susan Becker at 231-1817 or sbecker@tds.net.

A Legacy and A Light!

Celebrate 70 Years of Church Women United December 1, 2013; December 3, 2011, Bally's Hotel, Atlantic City

Come celebrate 70 years of CWU ministry ...share with CWU sisters and experience a vision for the future ...renew friendships, make new friendships ...inspirational messages, Bible study, new ideas for ministry ...learn from our legacy and move the CWU light into the future.

Partial list of presenters include:

- Rev. Susan Sparks, American Baptist Church
- Rev. J. Elise Brown, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- Rev. Constance Saizon, United Methodist Church
- Tins Tchen, Executive Director, White House Council on Women & Children
- Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad, Preaching Chair, Union Theological Seminary

Early Registration (June 30, 2011) \$195.00 Your registration. Registration (July 1, 2013; October 15, 2011) \$245.00 includes 4 meals Registration (October 15, 2013; November 7) \$295.00 and all sessions.

Valiant Woman Award Presentation

--Jacqueline Rodman

I am pleased to present Church Women United's 2011 Valiant Woman Award to Shirley Robbins. Shirley has been a member of Church Women United in Madison since 1987. She was president during the 2004-2006 period and has been very active with various committees and projects too numerous to name and is currently serving as Vice President of the unit which includes responsibility to coordinate the unit's forums.

Her work with publicity has been outstanding. We can always depend on her to take care of details and make those needed phone calls or make connections work. In addition to all of the many other functions which she carries out in Church Women United, she is a member of our ecumenical choir.

In her church, she and her husband, Sam, were honored in 2000 with the Faith and Service Award, a special recognition which her church, Memorial United Church of Christ, gives on an annual basis. In the 1990's, she helped organized her church's Prayer Chain and its Chariot Ministry. She was the person who followed up with visitors to the church; she taught Sunday School and for a period directed the Sunday School program. Shirley has served on the Church Council, was Recording Secretary and Council President.

She also serves in her church's vocal choir and the bell choir. She has chaired her church's Outreach Committee and has been the driving force behind the church's connection to Allied Drive.

She connects to the wider community in a variety of other ways. Shirley has volunteered at the Madison Ecumenical Center for 19 years, starting

when it was located in the train near the Global Express store which we operated. She was a long-time volunteer at the Domestic Abuse Center, She is active in Madison Allied Partners, Compassion and Choices (formerly known as The Hemlock Society), and her neighborhood association. Her pastor says of her that when there is a cause of peace and justice that needs another voice, Shirley's voice is right there. Her church has honored her for a lifetime of service to the world, and for a generation of service at Memorial United Church of Christ.

Within Church Women United, within her church, and within the wider community, Shirley is indeed a valiant woman.

Finally, on a personal note, Shirley has been a pastor's wife for 41 years, has four children, two granddaughters, and six great grandchildren.

I am delighted to present to you Church Women United's 2011 Valiant Woman Award recipient, Shirley Robbins.

