



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter May, 2013 No. 10

## May Planning Day Planning for 2013-2014 Friday, May 24, 2013

930 am Board Meeting  
10:30 am Annual Planning meeting  
All are Welcome

Bethany United Methodist Church  
3910 Mineral Point Road

## Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality on May Friendship Day

Ruth Hein brought us together in the expanded narthex, where the senior pastor, the Rev. Alex Thornburg, welcomed us to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The renovated space enhances opportunities for fellowship, their new entrance expresses hospitality, their new windows open the church to the world, and the enhanced spaces allow even more chances to act as a community center for the Nakoma neighborhood. MATC, neighborhood agencies, and Medina Muslim School use space on a regular basis. And he expressed appreciation for the work of Church Women United.

Fifty people attended the annual meeting, lunch, and celebration, coming from eighteen different churches representing 8 denominations.

Betsey Daniels compiled the annual reports and provided copies for all attendees. For election of officers, President Shirley Robbins invited volunteers for

the position of vice president for program coordination. Carolin Fletcher of Mt. Zion volunteered and was accepted to the slate. All duly elected by unanimous vote. Most women continued in their positions.

President, Shirley Robbins; Vice President (Program Coordinator), Carolin Fletcher; Secretary, Barbara Eggleston; Treasurer, Marleen Lippert; Ecumenical Action Chair, Gloria Carter; Ecumenical Development Chair, Shirley Stennis-Williams; Enabling Services (Publicity), Ann Sowaske; Finance Committee Chair, Marleen Lippert; Nominations Committee Chair, Shirley Alexander.

We still need a person to take on the job of Enabling Services--Registration. Volunteers welcome. Call Shirley Robbins if you would like to take on this responsibility. 233-3581

At the end of the business meeting, Anita Hinderlight spoke to us about the work of Africa Education & Leadership Initiative, known as Africa ELI. This organization's mission: By bridging gender gaps through education, girls and young women in South Sudan will become empowered to serve as national, local and family leaders, engage in business enterprise, improve health practices and effectively counteract forces of conflict and oppression. Africa ELI-educated women will lead in developing a peaceful, civil society offering equal opportunities for all its citizens. Go to their web site to see the work they are doing. [www.AfricaELI.org](http://www.AfricaELI.org)

We adjourned to Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch prepared by our caterer of choice, Steve Nelson, and enjoyed the time of fellowship and sharing. And our thanks to the ladies of Westminster for their hospitality as well.

The theme of May Friendship Day, Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality, provided meaningful worship, enhanced by the participation of the Medina Muslim students, who observed their noon prayers by praying them in unison in Arabic, with a teacher translating them into English, with an explanation of their origin. The teacher then spoke to us about the importance of hospitality in the Muslim faith, with emphasis on service and welcoming all. The worship service was a wonderful ending to our program year.

## **Planning Meeting**

The CWU-Madison Board will meet on Friday, May 24, 2013, at 9:30 am at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. At 10:30, we will hold our planning meeting for the 2013-1014 program year. All are welcome to come with ideas for both programs and meeting sites. If you cannot attend but would like to offer ideas, call your key woman or any board member before the meeting.

## **Mary Jean Bartholomew**

Mary Jean Bartholomew received CWU's Valiant Woman Award at our February forum, and we are all so glad that we honored her on that day. Mary Jean passed away on February 16 at the age of 88. The following biography gives us a glimpse into her meaningful life.

Mary Jean Bartholomew was born on April 21, 1924, to Frederick and Marion (Wilcox) Bartholomew in Richfield, Minnesota. In 1945, she graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, with majors in sociology and history. She was one of the first women allowed to take courses at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and received two years of instruction to become a commissioned church worker. She served churches in Ohio and Illinois. She taught religion in Decatur, IL, and at Linwood College in St. Charles, MO. She concluded her career by working for 26 years at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Madison, Wisconsin, first as director of Christian Education and then in 1980, she became an ordained minister, and served as Associate Pastor until her retirement.

Mary Jean has been a Board member of Madison YWCA, active in the Madison Area Council of Churches, a member of the Triangle Community Ministry board, a leader in the social justice ministry

of the Presbyterian Senate of Lakes and Prairies (Midwestern regional body), active in Church Women United and in Allied Partners (local churches involved in one of Madison's disadvantaged neighborhoods), and in other Madison area projects.

Church Women United-Madison was the beneficiary of Mary Jean's wisdom and energy for many years. We will miss her wise counsel.

## **Errata**

The pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church is the Rev. Richard Jones, not Richard Harris, as stated in the last newsletter.