



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter May, 2014 No. 10

May Planning Meeting Friday, May 23, 2014

Preparing for Next Year

9:30 am Board Meeting
10:15 am Planning Meeting

Key Women will join board Members to share ideas for programs and service projects

All those who have ideas and suggestions for next year also welcome to attend

You may bring a bag lunch to be ready in case our discussion runs past noon

Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road
Madison 53705

Annual Planning Meeting

On May 23, 2014, CWU-Madison will hold its annual meeting to share ideas for programs and possible service projects for our 2014-2015 program year. The board will meet at 9:30 am, and key women will join them at 10:15. If anyone has ideas they'd like to see considered, please tell your key woman about them. You can also attend yourself and share them directly at the meeting. This can be a very creative discussion, as ideas grow and change as more people add their knowledge and experiences to topics on the table.

Depending on how creative the discussion, the meeting may run past noon, and so you are welcome to bring a bag lunch. There will be coffee and tea for the entire meeting.

May Friendship Day Celebration

Some 40 people gathered at Lake Edge UCC for the annual meeting, a delicious chicken dinner, and an inspirational program on the theme Through God Our Hands Can Serve.

After a time of fellowship, Shirley Robbins called the meeting to order at 10:50 am, welcoming all those attending. Lake Edge members welcomed us to their church. We learned that Jacqueline Rodman is in the hospital, and we joined in prayer for her recovery.

Shirley Robbins announced that we received a \$300 grant from the Social Action Committee of the United Church of Christ for our Madison Ecumenical Center. She has asked for a \$500 grant this year.

After approving minutes and accepting reports, we moved to election and installation of officers. Most are continuing in their posts, with only two additions.

President, Shirley Robbins; Vice President/Program Coordinator, Carolin Pounds Fletcher; Secretary, Barbara Eggleston; Treasurer, Marleen Lippert; Assistant Treasurer (Madison Ecumenical Center), Rita Honnold; Ecumenical Action Committee, Gloria Carter; Enabling Committee, Pam Bracey (Registrar); Ecumenical Development/Key Women, Shirley Stennis-Williams; Celebrations Coordinator, Kathleen Dooley; Nominating Committee, Shirley Alexander. Immediate Past President, Jacqueline Rodman.

By Laws Committee presently has no chair or members, and anyone who is adept at this challenge is welcome to volunteer.

Shirley Stennis-Williams presented National Key Woman Awards to three women in three categories: long-time supporting church and long-serving key woman, First Baptist Church and Barbara Eggleston; new key woman, Ellie Metzloff; and Community Representative, Betsey Daniels. The last one is a new category for those serving an important function, but not representing a church. Betsey is handling our directory production.

We adjourned the meeting, enjoyed lunch, and then moved to the sanctuary where Senior Pastor Lex Liberatore welcomed us to Lake Edge. They are the children of Plymouth UCC, who purchased the farm in 1945 and held services in the farmhouse there before they received a chapel from Truax Field, a quonset hut delivered by truck. An open and affirming congregation, they have grown with their community. built their church, and hold both traditional and contemporary worship services.

Church Women United's 2014 theme: We are in God's hands and we are God's hands. A short history of CWU concluded with a goal of moving into the future by confession and contrition for standing in one place, thanks giving for God's Word and the inspiration of the Spirit, prayer through ecumenical prayer services, witness as we use 21st century media, solidarity with all women in our communities, and generosity in support our national movement.

The service introduction is a short reflection on CWU.

"May Friendship Day offers us a time to value our friendships with one another. In our friendships we bond with one another to work toward common goals. Those goals may include action in your local community or in other parts of the world. Regardless of where your service lies, friendships are strengthened by a shared vision. This year, we ask that you remember all those who benefit from your acts of service: family, friends, neighbors, and 'the least of these' who need your support. God provides us with the tools we need for service. Do you know what special tools you have been given? Consider using your gifts in a new way this coming year! Consider using your gifts in a way that will affect people you have never met. This truly is our calling, to care with happy hearts for all of God's children. As it says in Deuteronomy, do not 'harden your heart nor close your hand' to those in need

(15:7). Together, let us thank God for gifting us with the tools we need for service in His name, and ask for guidance and wisdom in using those gifts for the greater good."

Scriptures for the service included Psalm 100, Mark 10:43-45, Psalm 90, and Deuteronomy 15:7-11.

We received both the May Friendship Day offering and the Fellowship of the Least Coin offering during our service. The May Friendship Day offering goes towards supporting Church Women United on the local and state level. The offering is split in half so the local women can continue to carry out their local programs, and then the state can use the remaining half for its state-wide mission as well. International Fellowship of the Least Coin is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Persons in this movement make a commitment to spend time in prayer, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence, and injustice. Every time one prays, she sets aside a least coin of her currency as a tangible token of her prayer. Church Women United is the custodian for FLC offerings in the United States.

Our Ecumenical Choir blessed us with three anthems, Shout, Shout Hallelujah, Blessed Are They, and Irish Blessing. We all sang a vigorous He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.

Human Trafficking

The Faith Community's Response to Human Trafficking is an exciting opportunity to explore and discuss this area of oppression and our response to it. Prompted by the request of an Oostburg church asking how Slave Free Madison is handling this social problem, all are invited to a potluck dinner and discussion on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, from 6 to 8:30 pm at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Ave, Madison. This meeting is sponsored by Slave-Free Madison, in association with Church Women United and First Baptist Church. The idea is to share information and ideas about what we, as people for faith, are doing and can do to address human trafficking. Churches already working in this area and churches considering doing so are welcome. Please RSVP to Mary Fiore by phone (256-4687) or email (fiore@charter.net) by Thursday, May 15. Include the name of your church, a contact person with contact info, and the number expected to

attend. Please enter First Baptist Church at the rear/parking lot entrance.

June Event

Creating for Causes

The Middleton Hills Art Fair is taking place Saturday, June 28, 2014 in Middleton Wisconsin. We will be located on the Prairie Café Plaza and sidewalks in Middleton Hills, this is at the corner of Century Avenue and Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue in Middleton. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain Date is Sunday June 29, 2014. Dianne Stevens is one artist who is participating in Creating for Causes, a very special art fair, where each artist chooses a non-profit to promote, donate and collect for. She creates photo greeting cards and will be donating 100 % of her proceeds from the sale that day. She also will have a collection jar and collect donations. She would be happy to have any brochures, handouts or information on her table to help spread the word about Church Women United.

First Baptist History

Here is the history submitted to Church Women United's national office in support of recognition of First Baptist's long participation.

First Baptist Church and Church Women United

In 1924, representatives from 17 Madison churches met and formed the Women's Church and Missionary Federation. First Baptist was there. This group grew and continued under various names until uniting with newly formed National United Church Women in 1941. In 1968 this national organization and state and local units all adopted the name Church Women United.

First Baptist Church, founded in 1847, which has always had a wide vision of its community and the wider world, was a natural participant in this movement. Its denomination, Northern Baptists--now American Baptists--was committed to the ecumenical movement. Indeed, the ecumenical nature of the early women's mission movement led to CWU. The women of First Baptist took an active role in the blossoming of mission societies in the 1880's. By

1917, the Woman's Union meetings covered topics such as "Possibilities of Welfare Work Open to the Women of Madison," "Old Spain in New America," "Our South American Neighbors." As the Woman's Guild, their aim was to assist in the work of the local church, to help forward the missionary work of the denomination, and to aid in any welfare work which the Guild may approve. The women participated in groups of Madison church women as well as state mission work and White Cross, a program of rolling bandages and making babies' clothes, bassinet sets. Relief work during World War II became a part of Guild work, as did refugee assistance. Women's circles took an active role in reaching beyond church walls. The church gave direct assistance and supported resettlement of Japanese Americans interned in the Tule Lake California 'concentration camp.' Japanese women came to speak to the church circles, and Mrs. Osaka told about life in the Japanese relocation camps where the American government had placed the Japanese who lived in California. Miss Ruby Kaboda spoke to the Ida B. Fales Circle about the good record of the Nisei and the exploits of the 442nd Division. The circle also engaged in Russian relief work, French relief, Quaker relief, the Northern Baptist Emergency Relief and later on contributed to a program of the Wisconsin Baptist Brotherhood, "Heifers for Peace," a program to build dairy herds in developing countries. Northern Baptists were founding members of the National and World Councils of Churches after World War II.

First Baptist has continued support for refugees, housing ministries, and neighborhood centers. As support for international students, First Baptist has housed the ESL program of Madison Friends of International Students at our church since 1973. Classes grew from 30 to over 130 students. During the school year, they have gathered twice a week for language study and cultural acclimation. Most attendees are women, though now men also take advantage of these classes.

Many women of First Baptist have been a part of CWU over the years, as key women and officers, and the church has gladly hosted CWU forums and celebrations, One name that epitomizes this relationship is Mrs. L. B. Moseley, pastor's wife, a talented helpmate who ably assisted her husband. In fact, the two of them considered that they were engaged in a

joint ministry. Mrs. Moseley, who took over at times in midweek meetings, and on one occasion for Sunday services, enriched women's work from 1932 to 1944. She assisted in women's organization programs, both of the church and city, and at one time was president of the City Council of Church Women, CWU forerunner. Pastor's wives have continued strong work in women's ministries, as evidenced by Beverly Davison, who received our CWU Human Rights Award in December. A valuable inspiration of CWU work and a superb leader of Bible studies, both as a pastor's wife and a staunch church member, Beverly notes, "We were always inter-racial and committed to the Social Gospel, which gives us more reason to be so much a part of CWU."

Given this history, it is clear that First Baptist fit like a glove into Church Women United, and why it has taken an active role in this organization.

Barbara Eggleston
April 23, 2014
Histories of other Key Woman Awards will follow in subsequent newsletters.

Annual State Assembly
The Annual State Assembly will meet in Platteville on Saturday, September 27, 2014. The brochure and registration form are included here.