



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter November, 2012 No. 4

December Forum

Saturday, December 1, 2102

Wisconsin Children's Choir

9:00 a.m. Gathering and Coffee

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

10:00 a.m. Program

Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road

December Forum

The December Forum will meet on Saturday, December 1, at 9 a.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705. After welcome and refreshments in Fellowship Hall, we will move to the Sanctuary for a presentation of songs by the Wisconsin Children's Choir. A good start to the holiday season. [They were to sing for us in 2010, but snow cancelled that forum.]

World Community Day

We had a good turnout for World Community Day, a celebration that Church Women United World has held annually in the first week of November for 70 years, working ecumenically for peace and justice throughout our communities and the world. The opening prayer expressed well the theme of our worship and fellowship together. "Heavenly Father, we gather today to worship you in a spirit of community. Help us remember that we are all your children, therefore all sisters. Be our guide as we show your love and justice in a peaceful manner to better our communities. Give us the courage to stand up

for those who can't speak for themselves, to fight for justice when it is being overlooked, to always strive for peace instead of war. We ask this in the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ."

The first song, used by permission of composer Judith Snowden and the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada, said it completely and simply. "Let us widen our tents so that all are included, let us open our hearts, to embrace one and all, for our world is too small, and our vision impeded, yet the sphere of God's presence encompasses all." Our scriptural grounding was Romans 12:9-21.

The featured testimony told the story of Bashford United Methodist's food pantry and community garden. Helen Falk represented all of the active volunteers who, starting in 2006, developed a garden in the backyard of a local business, an 80 x 20 foot plot that has yielded a wealth of vegetables and morphed into cooking lessons and shared recipes. One visitor to the pantry told how she never saw fresh vegetables at home when she was growing up. Her mother held two jobs in addition to raising her children, so frozen, canned, and take-out put food on the table. This woman did not want that to be the experience of her children. What a fine example of Christian love in community.

The Ecumenical Women's Choir shared three anthems, all centered on peace and harmony, the theme of this celebration, *Sounds and Sights of Harmony, Abiding in Community*. As we learned from the state CWU, we are the only unit to have a choir.

Our thanks to Bashford for their hospitality in welcoming us, inspiring us, and feeding us. With the added treats brought by CWU's key women, we had a delightful breakfast time of shared sisterhood before the service.

Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal

All singing women welcome. We practice at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the third floor choir room. Practice dates are October 12, October 26, November 16 and November 23. *Note change from last month.*

Valiant Woman Award

At the October Forum, we presented the Valiant Woman Award to two of our long-time members whose service to Church Women United exemplifies what this organization stands for. In November, we did it again, and again Audrey Hinger and Kay Newton received a standing ovation. This time, they received their certificates and pens. Following is Audrey Hinger's story, as submitted to national. Kay Newton's will appear next month.

Audrey Hinger

Audrey Hinger has a degree in Psychology and has worked in the area of human development both as a teacher and in an office. She retired from her job with the State of Wisconsin in 1993. When she moved to Madison in 1971, she began attending Church Women United, and liking what she saw, became involved.

She was raised in different denominations, but was baptized Catholic and eventually married George Hinger, and ex-priest.

After serving as Vice-President, Audrey was Co-President, then later was Chair of the Celebration Committee, which she really enjoyed. She volunteers at the Madison Ecumenical Center, a Church Women United local project, spending countless hours calling for corrections for the Madison Area Religious and Human Resources Directory, which is published annually by MEC.

In 2005 Audrey saw a need for reading materials at Madison's three halfway houses for women. She personally compiled a list of books wanted by each woman and child, to be given to them by CWU. Funds are raised annually to buy the new books before Christmas. She has also helped organize a graduation party for each of these women who earns a GED. Audrey wrote the descriptions of all the offices for our Newsletter, and also helped get the Global Express started as a Fair Trade Store.

Through the years Audrey has attended regional and national conventions, taking other women with her. Audrey work diligently with Catholic women and women of other faiths, to get them involved with our unit. She believes that Church Women United is the best way for women to meet and become friends with women of all denominations. She is a wonderful liaison between the churches.

This valuable member deserves to be one of our Valiant Women!

Forthcoming Opportunities

Thanksgiving Eve Service - November 21

Downtown churches will lead an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service at Bethel Lutheran Church (312 Wisconsin Avenue) on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:00 pm. Participating churches: Grace Episcopal Church, First Methodist Church and Chart Presbyterian Church. Please consider making this a part of your Thanksgiving celebration.

Continued Opportunity to Donate Books

The International Ministry Team at First United Methodist Church takes Spanish and bilingual books to El Salvador on our annual Habitat for Humanity work trips. We welcome donations of books for all ages: children's picture books, early readers, chapter books for upper elementary school kids and fiction and non-fiction for teens and adults.

The purpose is to build up a community library for the village of Gethsemani.

Please drop off books in good condition at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave. Madison or call Liz Gill at 243-1488 to arrange for a pickup. If you have questions about the project, please contact Kathi Kemp at (608) 295-6425.

Ending Homelessness Bus Tour

November 28, 2012, 8:45 am to 12:00 pm Lake Edge Lutheran Church 4032 Monona Drive, Madison, WI 53716 See information page for details.

Church Women United Action Alert November 1, 2012

Sisters,

Our hearts are heavy as we pray for our brothers and sisters whose lives have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The devastation is enormous and recovery will take weeks, months and even years. Not surprisingly, the women of the CWU movement have already stepped up and pitched in by donating your time and resources to your churches, neighborhood groups and other organizations that are assisting the hurricane victims. If you are seeking additional ways to help, here are a few things that you can do to make a difference:

1. Donate. Many churches, religious and community organizations and other non-profits are accepting donations for hurricane relief. If you're not sure where to direct a donation, here are a few of the major organizations involved in the effort:

[The Salvation Army](#)

[The American Red Cross](#)

[Southern Baptist Disaster Relief](#)

[Convoy of Hope Rapid Response Team](#)

[Church World Service](#)

If you are considering donating money to any organization to assist hurricane victims, the [Better Business Bureau](#) has offered some ex-

cellent tips to help you decide where and how to direct donations. And before donating, keep the following things in mind:

- Be cautious when giving online;
- Visit www.bbb.org/charity to research charities and relief organizations and verify that they are accredited by the BBB;
- Be wary of claims that 100 percent of donations will assist relief victims;
- Find out if the charity has an on-the-ground presence in the impacted areas;
- Find out if the charity is providing direct aid or raising money for other groups;
- Before donating food and clothing, ask the charity about its transportation and distribution plans to be sure it has make sure the organization has the staff and infrastructure to distribute them properly.

2. Remember and remind others of the urgent need to address the root causes of climate change and the consequence of ecological disasters affecting the most vulnerable and impoverished sectors of our society. It is imperative that we as CWU continue to act to heal our hurting planet and to change the course on which we have been in the last several decades. It is also urgent that we promote an eco-theology of justice and sustainability for the whole inhabited world.

3. Ensure that you and members of your unit are familiar with our 2012-2016 Quadrennial Priority for Environmental Care. The priority provides actions for individuals as well as units. If you do not have a copy of the QPs visit the [CWU website](#) or contact blanchesmith@churchwomen.org

If you have other suggestions you'd like to share, please let me know and we will get out the word!

Thank you for all you are doing to reach out to those who need our help to restore their world. Together, we really can make a difference!

Blessings