



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter November, 2014 No. 4

**December Forum  
Friday, December 5, 2014**

*Shopping Fair Trade and  
How It Makes a Difference  
Around the World*

**Amanda Bicker**

**Representative of SERRV Store**

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee  
9:30 am Welcome and Announcements  
10:00 am Program

**Christ Presbyterian Church  
944 East Gorham Street, Madison**

## **December Forum**

On Friday, December 5, we will gather at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street, for a program on Fair Trade. Fair Trade has been a concern and a cause for Madison's CWU for many years. Amanda Bicker, from the SERRV store on Monroe Street, will speak on Shopping Fair Trade and How it Makes a Difference Around the World. In addition, she will bring merchandise from the store to demonstrate what they sell, and these items will be available for purchase. Christmas shopping, anyone?

And a note on getting to Christ Presbyterian--the rebuilding of East Johnson Street is done, so you should have no routing problems.

## **November Celebration of World Community Day**

Through God Our Hands Can Heal was the topic of our 2014 World Community Day, in keeping with the CWU 2014 theme, *We are in God's hands and we are*

*God's hands.* Bashford United Methodist Church welcomed us with open arms and delightful treats that included two gluten-free baked selections.

Kate Dooley led the service of worship. Bible verses that guided the program: Exodus 15:26, Psalm 107:19-20a, Psalm 30:2, Psalm 103:2-3, and Psalm 139, which provided our responsive reading. Kate told how moved she was by a speaker she had heard earlier in the week, on the difference between being cured and being healed, and especially how we should pray for healing not just for those suffering in this world, but also for healing on those who inflict that suffering. Healing comes from God, and our prayers need to seek that healing for all involved.

A poem included on the back page of our program captures the theme of healing hands.

### **HANDS**

*Written by Lois LaFon*

Hands place a ring, eyes filled with caring  
Hands build a house, for lives to be sharing

Hands baking cookies for the Bible School bunch  
Hands rolling a pie crust for a funeral lunch.

Baby Hands grasping a finger in trust  
Hands clapping Pat-a-cake with giggles robust.

Hands marking a ballot, a country to better  
Hands writing down thoughts in a comforting letter.

Shawls crocheted or knitted, in each stitch a prayer  
Hand held in hospice to show that you care.

Hands raised to calm water, "Peace, be still."  
Hands pierced with nails on Calvary's hill.

One of the important elements of holding meetings in different churches is the opportunity to learn more about the congregations that make up our members.

Sharon Newman, head of the three United Methodist Women's groups at Bashford, gave us a quick look. Established in 1919 on North Seventh St., they built a larger building in 1954-55 at their present location on North St. with the desire to bring people into a relationship with God and each other. They participate in many community services and social outreach, from food pantry to supplies for Emerson Elementary School to Monday meals for the drop-in shelter at Grace Episcopal to support for the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. As Sharon stated, "Our joy and hope sends us into mission."

## **CWU Business**

Marleen Lippert reminds us that our fiscal year ends December 31, so do check to see if your church has contributed in this fiscal year. The fair share form is included in the newsletter.

## **ARC Book Project**

Our major yearly mission, is looking for \$1000 to cover books for women in the ARC houses and for their children. We already have \$400 in the project account. Different groups have contributed to this fund, and not just women's groups. One church's Bible study, a book club, and the Arbor Hills neighborhood are examples of other givers. If you attended our September Forum, you will remember the testimony as to the value of books as gifts. You may send a check to Marleen made out to Church Women United--Madison and noted to ARC. You can also contribute at the December forum. Marleen's address is 6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland, WI 53558

## **MEC Directory Needs Your Assistance**

Our 2014 edition is available, but it wasn't ready until August. Ann Sowaske is gearing up to get the 2015 directory out in the spring. What this requires is people to call all 325 churches in our area for updates, a new pastor, a women's group. Ann has update sheets and asks for volunteers to sign up for specific churches. So look for Ann in December, and if you want to sign up sooner, give her a call at 608-238-7903 or contact her at [bsowaske@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsowaske@sbcglobal.net)

## **Ecumenical Action**

National Church Women United continues to lift up the issues of a "living wage." Gloria Carter forwarded this helpful information.

## **What is a living wage?**

Dictionary Definition: "An amount of money you are paid for a job that is large enough to provide you with the basic things (such as food and shelter) needed to live an acceptable life" – Merriam-Webster

The seven factors in calculating the basic cost of a safe and decent standard of living are:

1. Housing
2. Food
3. Childcare
4. Transportation
5. Healthcare
6. Taxes
7. Other Basic Necessities

To what extent is minimum wage able to meet the criteria above for a living wage? It depends on where you live, but the minimum wage for the majority of Americans is un-liveable.

## **Statistics about Minimum-wage Workers**

- Minimum-wage workers are older than they used to be. Their average age is 35, and 88% are at least 20 years old. Half are older than 30, and about one third are at least 40.
- Many have kids. About one-quarter (27%) of these low-wage workers are parents, compared with 34% of all workers.
- Most are women. Women make up 48% of the work force yet 55% of the would-be beneficiaries of the increase in the minimum wage.
- Most are white, but minorities are overrepresented.
- Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/10/upshot/minimum-wage.html>

## **How Do We Respond to These Facts?**

### **Biblical Inspiration**

"Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages." —Jeremiah 22:13

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it..." —1 Corinthians 12:26

### **Action**

- Know what the living wage is in your area. The Living Wage Calculator online is a great resource for this: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>
- Connect with the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin, one of the

groups CWU-Madison partners with. Visit their website for more information on their campaign to raise the minimum wage.

Gloria Carter, Ecumenical Action Chair  
carter53597@tds.net; (608) 849-7589

## Upcoming Events

First United Methodist announces the following events.

### Snow White

Tickets On Sale Now for November Performances  
Come see Ken Lonquist and a cast of young performers in a funny and tuneful retelling of this beloved story. Performances will take place in Fellowship Hall.

- Friday, November 14 @ 7 p.m.
- Sunday, November 16 @ 4 p.m.
- Friday, November 21 @ 7 p.m.
- Saturday, November 22 @ 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$8. You can purchase yours in the Narthex on Sunday or online at [nimbitmusic.com/kenlonquist.1#events](http://nimbitmusic.com/kenlonquist.1#events).

### Varshavski-Shapiro Piano Duo Concert for Youth Missions

Saturday, November 15 @ 7 p.m. Stanislava Varshavski and Diana Shapiro will play both four hands and two pianos arrangements for this special performance in our Sanctuary. A free will offering to support First Church Youth Missions will be received. For more information about these exciting performers view this flier.

## November Meetings

November 21, 2014

Bethany United Methodist Church,  
3910 Mineral Point Road

8:30 am: Key Women Meeting

Chair: Shirley Stennis-Williams

608-273-3738 [sstennis@execpc.com](mailto:ssennis@execpc.com)

9:30 am: Board Meeting

President and Chair: Shirley Robbins

608-233-3581 [robbnest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robbnest@sbcglobal.net)

## Ecumenical Choir

We will practice on November 21 from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705, in the 3rd Floor Choir Room. We will sing for the December 5th Forum.

## CWU Annual State Meeting Notes

Carolyn Fletcher reported that we took 66 school bags to the annual meeting of Wisconsin's CWU in Platteville. She reported on the following presentations.

**ADRC/Aging & Disability Recourse Center of Southwest Wisconsin-South** provides services that address long-term care for Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties. 1-877-794.2372

[www.adrcswwi.org](http://www.adrcswwi.org). All people, regardless of financial circumstances, need good, unbiased, information about life choices. Support Services includes Home Delivered Meals, Senior Dining Centers, Transportation, Caregiver Support Programs, Home Health Care, Hospice, Adult Day Care Centers, including tips for remaining in your home and safety tips in the home as well as many other services. Many people are not aware of this service or are sometimes too ashamed to ask!

For Dane County information and Services use the following information for contact:

ADRC of Dane County, 2865 N. Sherman Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin, WI 53704; 608-240-7400 General Telephone; 608-240-7401 FAX; Toll Free 855-417-6892; TTY/Tdd/Relay# 608-240-7404, e-mail [ADRC@countyofdane.com](mailto:ADRC@countyofdane.com) and website [www.daneadrc.org](http://www.daneadrc.org). Office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Poverty & Homelessness in Wisconsin presented by Beverly D. Doll.** We learned What is Poverty, Who is in Poverty, and What Causes Poverty. Also, How does Poverty Impact Food Security, Poverty and the Living Wage. Homelessness affects everyone. We were surprised to learn that there are approximately 14 homeless people in rural areas. Issues affecting Homelessness is the Housing Burden. Also, Wisconsin average rent is \$768.00 a month and this does not include the deposit. In 2012 Wisconsin ranked 16th in percentage of homeless children. In 2012 children represented 27% of the homeless population utilizing shelters and transitional housing programs in Wisconsin. Beverly A. Doll presented a handout with "35 Ways You Can Impact Poverty in Your Community!" Also a "Fact Sheet on Homelessness and Poverty!" Visit the website: [www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org](http://www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org) regarding handouts and further information regarding Homelessness in Wisconsin and the Nation. You can contact Couleecap, your local community action

program, Grace E. Jones, Executive Director, 608-634-3104, [www.couleecap.org](http://www.couleecap.org) regarding Myths and Stereotypes regarding Poverty.

### **A Bit of Wisconsin History.**

Some took advantage of a visit to the Mitchell Roundtree Stone cottage. Built in 1837 by Rev. Samuel Mitchell, the cottage stands today much as it did 177 years ago. Mitchell was a Revolutionary War veteran. His son-in-law, Major John Roundtree, was one of the founders of Platteville. Roundtree supervised the construction of the house which features two-foot-thick walls of dolomite Galena limestone. The home's interior displays many of the Roundtree family's original furnishings. Original furnishing included all furniture from the bedrooms, kitchen, dining and living room. Included was a display of Mrs. Mitchell's and her daughters' clothing and personal items. Mrs. Mitchell was a wonderful artist as well as a skilled and knowledgeable homemaker. Carolin especially enjoyed the story regarding Rev. Mitchell, who did not believe in slavery. All black people were given living quarters, paid wages, and worked in the fields, etc. Many of Rev. Mitchell's neighbors thought Rev. Mitchell had many slaves, which was not the case. Rev. Mitchell gave freedom to all slaves who found their way to his home.