



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter November, 2013 No. 4

## December Forum Racial Justice

Friday, December 6, 2013

## Christmas, 50 Years After the Washington March

The Rev. Andrew Davison  
Pastor Emeritus  
First Baptist Church of Madison

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

First Baptist Church  
518 North Franklin Ave., 53705

## December Forum

We will gather on Friday morning, December 6, 2013, at First Baptist Church for our December Forum on Racial Justice. The Rev. Andrew Davison, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist, will deliver the message on *Christmas, 50 Years After the Washington March*. Andy was there with an ecumenical group of people from Providence, Rhode Island, who bussed down to Washington to take part in this massive movement for racial justice.

First Baptist's address is 518 North Franklin AVENUE, zip code 53705. It is located 1/2 block south of University Avenue, just west of the Veteran's Hospital. Turn at the Spirit gas station. Parking lot is in

back of the church. Turn on Shepard Terrace to reach it. We will meet in Fellowship Hall. Elevator access at the corner of the building will take you directly there, where members of the American Baptist Women's Ministry will welcome you for coffee and fellowship.

First Baptist's web address is  
[www.firstbaptistmadison.org](http://www.firstbaptistmadison.org)

## World Community Day

Memorial United Church of Christ welcomed us with open arms and tasty treats as we celebrated *Walking Through Doors of Opportunity*. The Rev. Phil Haslanger introduced us to Memorial, which began in downtown Madison in 1917 and moved into its present building in 1989. Memorial is a church that values music both as ministry and as providing venues for such groups as the CAT Trio. They support DAIS, and regularly send groups for service work, most recently in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Our worship service focussed on opening doors for ourselves and others. The introduction as printed begins,

"Behold I stand at the door and knock," says Jesus in Revelations 3:20. Jesus invites us to open the doors of our heart so that he might come in and begin a renewal process that will help each of us become disciples for Him. We join Jesus in inviting other Christian women, whether a member of Church Women United or not, to consider various methods of inviting others to join us in the work of Church Women United. This work challenges us to think outside of the box in our worship, bible studies, missions and ministries during World Community day, as well as, during our other celebrations.

Our Ecumenical Women's Choir opened with an anthem, *I Cannot Be Silent*, leading to our call to worship of Psalm 122. Our worship leader read the verses of the song, *We Are Your People*, written by Brian Wren. These six verses set the tone for our discussions later in the program. A taste of the poetry:

We are your people: Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us Christ to our neighbors  
of every culture and place.

Bible verses were Isaiah 43:1-3a and Mark 2:1-12. Then we broke up into small groups to discuss barriers to connecting with others and ways around those barriers

The choir sang *Let There Be Peace On Earth* as we took up our World Community Offering. We closed with the song, *Approach the Open Door*, lyrics by Lois LaFon, which everyone joined in singing.

Approach the open door, our Savior by our side  
We need not fear what lies beyond  
with Him to guide  
Our challenge is so clear,  
the world needs peace and love,  
When hat and turmoil rock our lives,  
call on God above.

Oh welcome in your God, along with others near  
He'll give you strength to find the way,  
it will be clear.  
We should be showing all  
who we see every day,  
That opening doors can always help  
in some small way.

Swing open wide the door for all to enter in.  
A friendship waits for those  
who come to dwell within.  
All barriers fall away, as sisterhood is formed,  
We all are one in our God's eyes,  
our hearts are warmed.

## **Business Announcements**

### **ARC Book Project**

For Christmas, we give books to the children and women of the Arc Houses. These are halfway houses for women coming out of prison who have children. This way, women have gifts for their children as well as wonderful bonding agents. And women

request books for themselves that provide help raising children and increasing their insight. Audrey Hinger, Jacqueline Rodman, and a children's librarian spend many hours selecting appropriate titles. We are collecting money at each of our meetings to finance these special Christmas gifts.

### **Ecumenical Action**

Gloria Carter brought handouts to share. She can provide you with emails of alerts that come to her. Send her an email to be added to the list so that you may receive them also. [carter53597@tds.net](mailto:carter53597@tds.net)

### **E-Advocacy Alert**

Prevent Cuts to Our most Effective Anti-Hunger Program, from the Wisconsin Council of Churches ([wcoc@wichurches.org](mailto:wcoc@wichurches.org)). Nutrition assistance cuts would hurt thousands of Wisconsinites. Contact your Representative Today! . . . Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as "food stamps"). Tell your Representative not to cut SNAP!

### **Bread for the World**

**([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org))**

Fact Sheet: Churches and Hunger. Each congregation in the United States would need to spend \$50,000 per year for the next ten years to feed the people who would be affected by proposed cuts to federal food programs.

### **The Partnership Center**

**([www.hhs.gov/partnerships](http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships))**

How the Health Care Law Helps your Community: A Fact Sheet for Faith and Community Leaders.

### **Madison Ecumenical Community Directory**

The Madison Ecumenical Community Directory is done and available for \$10 a copy. You can order from the MEC office or pick one up at the next forum. Orders come in from churches, Agrace, funeral homes, libraries, and resource agencies. The book serves as the approved list of people admitted to the Dane County jail as ministers. If you're not in the book, you don't get in.

### **Our Web Page**

Be sure to check out our own Madison CWU web page. Thanks to Ann Sowaske and especially to Christine Gantz, we have an excellent presence on the internet. Go to [www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net) to see reports, updates, and newsletters.

## **Grand Music**

Arboretum Cohousing Invites You to Enjoy an Evening of Grand Music. 7 pm, Saturday, November 9th, Trevor Stephenson and 7 pm, Saturday January 18th, Kitt Reuter-Foss. Tickets \$25, available online at [ArboretumCohousing.org](http://ArboretumCohousing.org). for more information contact us at (608) 260-0284 or [ArbcoPiano@gmail.com](mailto:ArbcoPiano@gmail.com) Arboretum Cohousing 1137 Erin St.

Memorial UCC also had concerts coming up immediately following our meeting, so too late to list them now. But check their web site for future opportunities. [www.memorialucc.org](http://www.memorialucc.org)

## **Sing-Along For Fun!**

Where? Bring a friend and come to West Madison Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace.

When? 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month). Save the date! November 20!

Who's Invited? Anyone who loves to sing! You don't have to be a super singer!

Accompaniment? Fantastic Pianist Robert Auerbach plays by heart and by music.

What Kind of Music? Songs from Musicals; Your Old & New Favorites.

Questions? Call Ellie Metzloff at 608-230-6704 or Will Armstrong at West Madison Senior Center-- 608-238-0196.

## **Ecumenical Choir Practice**

We practice from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. in the third floor choir room of the BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 3910 MINERAL POINT ROAD, MADISON, WI 53705. Practice dates are November 8th and November 22nd. We will sing at the forum, Christmas, 50 Years After the Washington March, on December 6 at First Baptist Church.