



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter October, 2015 No. 3

November Celebration Friday, November 6, 2015

*World Community Day
Our Journey Together*

9:00 am Gathering & Coffee
9:30 am Welcome and Announcements
10:00 am Worship Service

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church
5501 University Avenue

November Celebration

We will celebrate World Community Day on Friday, November 6, 2015, at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, 5501 University Avenue, beginning with coffee, fellowship and announcements before our worship service on the theme of *Our Journey Together*. Come to celebrate our bonds as sisters in Madison, in America, in the world. This is an excellent time to invite fellow church members, neighbors, and friends to join us for this morning of reflection and dedication.

October Forum

Bethany United Methodist Church welcomed us warmly with tasty treats for a time of sharing and fellowship before our program on Catholic Charities. Many announcements gave a lively look to our faith communities. Faith Bauman proposed a letter to Senator Tammy Baldwin and Members of Congress that she initiated at Bethany and invited CWU to also sign. We discussed it and changed it to come from members of the faith community and followers of Christ, urging congress to address the vitally important issue of environmental degradation. Bethany's office typed it and provided copies that we could each take to our own churches. Faith will send it to Tammy Baldwin in two

weeks, with lists of names and addresses of constituents who have signed the petition. You may reach Faith at 608-661-0470 (no email).

Westminster Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and will have a movie night on the first Friday of each month, 6:30 pm, starting October 2 with *The General*, starring Buster Keaton.

First Methodist is sending a mission trip to El Salvador in February and will welcome others to take part. Kathlyn Madegen reported on the press conference at the City-County Building in regard to the homeless ban. Many clergy members and MUM were there to bear witness to Madison's treatment of these unfortunate people.

The 2015-2016 Just Dining Guide is seeking sponsors from both individuals and organizations who will be listed in the beginning of the English and Spanish Just Dining Guides to be released in December 2015.

This guide, launched in 2012 by the jWorkers' Rights Center (WRC) and the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (ICWJ), is focused on working conditions in central Madison restaurants, informing customers and workers about the wages, benefits and working conditions for people who cook, prepare and serve food. For information about this publication, contact The Workers' Rights Center, 2300 S. Park Street, Suite 115, Madison, WI 53713, 608-255-0376, worker1@sbcglobal.net.

Susan Becker told us that the UN began 70 years ago, and CWU was present at the signing of the charter. This year, on October 18, the UNA-USA Dane County Chapter is hosting a luncheon at Monona Terrace on October 18, featuring keynote speaker Ambassador John Lange and 2015 Global Citizen Recipient Cecilia Zarate-Laun. Visit unadane.org to register. There are some scholarships available to help with registration costs. Contact: Sarah Ripp, UNA-USA Dane County Chapter, 608-262-0616, skripp@wisc.edu

The Wisconsin Council of Churches is mobilizing people to sign a letter to Pope Francis to thank him for coming and for his message.

The State CWU meeting offered cards with little orange ribbons that people are encouraged to wear every 25th day of the month to show support for women who are victims of domestic violence. You can also wear orange on the day. Susan will have ribbons available at World Community Day.

October Program: Catholic Charities

Jackson Fonder, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Madison, gave us an in-depth look at this longstanding non-profit organization that has operated in our area since 1946. While it is under the purview of the Madison diocese, it is not an outreach of local congregations, but a separate entity, a non-profit corporation. Catholic Charities is a national organization. There are 5 Catholic Charities in Wisconsin. Mr. Fonder, a native of Green Bay, veteran of the Air Force, and successful corporate businessman, decided at the age of 50 to work for the good of others, joined Catholic Charities, and took the job of running Catholic Charities Madison, whose motto is Strengthening Families, Nurturing Children. It operates in 11 counties, with 339 staff, 197 full-time, 142 part-time. While it is an outreach arm of the Catholic Church, it doesn't get direction from the church. They employ all, serve all. They reach 25,000 to 30,000 people a year. Most of their work is in Dane County, and Rock County, but they are spreading to reach more of the other counties they serve.

Catholic Charities Madison operates 30 programs in 4 specialty areas: Children and Families, Developmental Disabilities, Substance Abuse, and Aging. They served 25,875 participants in 2014.

Children and Families areas include Adoption, Birth to 3, Building Bridges, FACE Kids—Dane County, FACE Kids—Rock County, FACE Kids—Connections, Individual & Family Counseling, Mobile Food Pantry, Parish School Counselors, Post Adoption, and Pregnancy Counseling.

Developmental Disabilities concentrates on empowering people. Programs include Community Connections, Community Living, DD Counseling, Green & Rock County Recreation, Support Brokers, Supportive Living, and Youth Living Alternatives. Substance Abuse focuses on restoring lives. Programs here include Hope Haven, North By Lodge,

Chris Farley House, and Pathfinder Jail Diversion.

Aging concentrates on valuing seniors. Adult Day Care, Caregiver Training, Companion Care, Elder Mentor, Respite Care Team Ministry, and All Saints Neighborhood.

All Saints Neighborhood has the motto of Spirit-ed Senior Living! It is a retirement center with senior apartments, cottages and condos, assisted living center, and memory care.

They are definitely not a small part of care and services for our area. Their 2015 budget is \$19,287,000, 75% of which comes from contracts. Sources of income include donations, special events, grants; United Way; Distributions from All Saints; Program Service and Client Fees; Management Fees, Related Entities; Diocese of Madison; and Government. All money is from local sources.

In addition to paid staff, volunteers are a significant part of their work. In 2014, volunteers contributed 45,276 hours, the equivalent of 23 full-time positions. They have collaborating partners. Currently they include Journey Mental Health Center, Agrace Hospice Care, Rainbow Project, Second Harvest Food Bank, Family Services Madison, UW Health American Family Children's Hospital, Lutheran Social Services, Verona Area School District, and Madison Metropolitan School District.

Mr. Fonder gave us a good overall view of this work, personalizing it to Dane County. For example, Dane County has more non-profits than almost anywhere else. Mobile food pantries are big in Dane, not so much in the other counties. Catholic Charities is building bridges and moving into new areas as they find avenues. Providing counseling in public schools is a slow process as to access and policy. Restoring lives has limited options in Dane County.

Alcohol and drug abuse treatment can cost \$400 a day, \$12,000 a month. Hope Haven charges \$154 a day or \$5000 a month. They are looking to insurance companies to help families cover costs. They just signed with Group Health and hope to add Physicians Plus. Hope Haven is now on Mendota Health grounds and has an upgraded lodge facility. Those trying to recover from alcohol and drug abuse spend 4, 5, 6 weeks as they try to get sober, get housing, get employment. It's a brutal struggle. They need to change their environment when they are out. For many, jail or Hope Haven is the choice they must make.

Mr. Fonder runs Catholic Charities as a corporation that tries to provide efficient services, earn

enough income to invest for emergencies and program expansion, and support their many programs. Most programs just break even. The Strategic Plan for 2016—o202 is to provide a comprehensive response to the needs of people who are underserved in our 11 counties; act as the coordination agency to manage collective impact; and provide services to people who fall through the gaps.

Many questions and discussions followed, and Mr. Fonder commented that it was really nice to have so many intelligent questions from people who knew what they were talking about. We thank him for an excellent program on a vital part of Madison's caring network.

Report on the Central Region Event Report for the 2015 State Assembly in West Salem: Journeying Together with GPS (God's protective support)

and Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Ps. 119:105

With these words Marilyn Stone, Gloria Higgins, Hazel Christopher and I set off from Burlington, WI on August 27 for the Central Regional Event at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska. With Marilyn as our driver and she and Gloria as navigators, the miles flew by and we enjoyed our time together. We stayed overnight in Walnut, Iowa, arriving at St. Benedict Center mid-day on the 28th to help where needed.

Registration went smoothly with Judy Regan from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at the helm. Around 40 CWU sisters from all of the states in our region--Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Wisconsin—gathered together for two days of worship,, sharing, learning, laughing, talk, eating and stimulating speakers while enjoying the beautiful environment at St. Benedict Center.

Ann Garten, the Central Region Coordinator from Iowa, kept things moving along with the assistance and leadership of all of the state presidents. We had a silent auction. Many of us came home with some treasures. The fair trade store, displays, music and worship were all part of the offerings.

Marilyn Lariviere, the CWU National President who lives in Cape Cod, MA, was our featured speaker. Her first message was based on Micah 6:8: "The Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: do what is just, show constant love and live in humble fellowship with our God". (Good

News Bible) Marilyn talked about Jesus' radical spirituality and how, if we took that to heart in our units, we would look quite different. We would welcome everyone no matter what their abilities, gender, ethnic background, economic status.

It is worth looking at the CWU national website (churchwomen.org) regularly for new information. Every Monday an email, "On our way together..." comes out from the national office with a focus for prayer at mid-day on Monday. This started after the kidnapping of the Nigerian school girls about two years ago.

We learned about the big 75th anniversary celebration of the founding of CWU that will be in Louisville, KY, in October, 2016. The international committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin will be there, as well as the international committee for World Day of Prayer. A major speaker will be Corazon Reyes, from The Philippines, Executive Director of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. I met her several years ago. She is a very inspiring woman. Marilyn also told us to be the word to one another.

We heard from Margit Hauge from Minnesota, the new national treasurer. A treasurer's report was in the August, 2014, issue of ChurchWoman News (churchwomannews@churchwomen.org). Enough money helps CWU provide the services that we all value.

CWU is kept abreast of legislative happenings in Washington, DC, by Nancy Neil who is a CWU board member. She works for Bread for the World.

Kathleen Clark from Iowa is on the national nominating committee which will be looking for a new Central Region Coordinator in 2016. Do we have any suggestions?

A new children's book, "Shanti Means Peace," about Shanti Soloman, founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, was introduced to us through a delightful skit which is available. Another skit was about people with disabilities and how they are treated. It was very powerful

Our workshop topics were on the elimination of the death penalty in Nebraska, Alzheimer's and the environment and the role of energy.

Sharing stories and learning about what CWU in other states are doing was inspiring and informative. We now have connections with other CWU sisters.

—Susan Becker

Ecumenical Choir

It is time to start our Ecumenical Choir Practices for the season. We meet at noon until 1:30 pm at

Bethany Methodist Church, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison , 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. We will plan to sing for the programs in November and December. Practice schedule: October 16, 23; November 13, 20; December 11; January 8, 2016; February 12, 26; March 11; April 8, 22.

Board Meeting

Board Meeting Friday morning, October 23, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705.