



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter October, 2011 No. 3

Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action

2011 World Community Day

November 6, 2011

2:00 p.m. Gathering and Snacks

3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service

Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison

November Celebration

The theme of **2011 World Community Day** is *Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action*. We will meet Sunday, November 6, 2011, at 2 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church 3910 Mineral Point Road, for gathering and refreshments. At 3 p.m. we will worship together in an ecumenical service that calls us to live out our faith in actions that address our world's needs.

You will find on a separate page the Bible Study that goes with this celebration. Study the verses in Micah and Matthew and read the sheet as preparation for our time together.

October Forum

We gathered at Christ Presbyterian Church for a Friday evening meal and a program on *Domestic Violence*. Susan Becker welcomed us to her church as we shared a delicious potluck supper. The Rev. Glen Reichelderfer, associate pastor, came to welcome us as well and assured us that Susan regularly keeps Christ Presbyterian on its toes and reaching out in new directions of ministry. Everything from the Road Home to being a sister church with churches in

Bethlehem, Palestine, and Alexandria, Egypt. He noted that we were sharing space with the weekly Friday night ESL conversation group. Those for whom English is a new experience gather with church members and neighborhood friends to practice their English skills. Each fourth Saturday night, they gather in the kitchen to prepare dishes from their native countries to share among the members. He issued an open invitation to all to stop by some 4th Saturday night and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Our program speaker was Molly Zemke, of Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS). DAIS is the only direct intervention agency in Dane County. A shelter house is a part of their program. It is the smallest shelter in Wisconsin, based on number of beds as a proportion of population. They have 1 bed per 19,000 people. They have been in existence for 35 years, they have 35 full- and part-time staff and 75 volunteers. Volunteers are always welcome. They haven't had an increase in capacity in 20 years, even though there are higher rates of domestic violence. They have some city, county, state funding, federal funding, some private funding, but they still have a long waiting list for those who need services or shelter. The United Way is supportive.

Services include a crisis line, crisis response, legal advocacy support, emergency shelter (25 beds), community programs, prevention programs (working with kids and with schools), and SAAV (save animals of abuse victims, in partnership with Dane County Humane Society).

Domestic violence presents as coercive, controlling tactics, power control using verbal, financial, sexual, physical, emotional means. Domestic violence is underreported. Estimates are that 1 in 4 American women experience domestic violence, compared to 1

in 3 in the world. Of domestic violence victims, 85% are women, 15% are men. For high school girls, 1 in 5 is assaulted by a dating partner.

And when we consider women who are in treatment for alcohol or other drug abuse, what role does domestic violence play there?

Molly led us through the tactics of control and how they present. Physical abuse may happen once or twice, but the treat is always hanging there, coercion may include threats of harm or threats of suicide, or merely displaying weapons. Emotional abuse, putting her down, crazy making. Isolation, such as physically moving away from family, friends, restricting cars, cell phones. Minimizing, denying, blaming. Using children by threatening to take them away, or turning them against her. Economic abuse by controlling money, preventing her from getting a job, controlling finances. A root of this is the idea of male privilege, rigid gender roles that are hard on both women and men.

This is often a cycle of violence: Honeymoon, tension, violence, apology, back to honeymoon, etc. Cycles continue until the victims leave or are killed. Women stay because of children, fear, money housing, brainwashed, even love. One victim told them she quit liking her husband but she still loved him.

Ways to help women caught in this is to tell them it isn't their fault, be accepting of them, let them know you'll be there for them, support her strengths, tell her about resources. If you are concerned about someone else, you can call the crisis line to see how you can help. Really important. Just listen.

Directory Corrections

- p. 1 -- bottom, national website misspelled, should be churchwomen, not churchwoman (who would she be?).
- p. 3 -- Susan Becker's email: sbecker4@tds.net - remember the "4".
- p. 5 -- Nov. 6 Celebration -- Title is "Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action", Location is Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd., gathering at 2 p.m., celebration at 3 p.m.
- p. 6 -- April 13 program, add Nikki Carew, Coordinator.
- p. 11 -- University UMC no longer exists; it is

entirely The Crossing now.

- 13 -- Consequently, Mary Ann Litwiller is no longer a Cord Builder.

THE UNITED NATIONS 66th ANNIVERSARY

UNITED NATIONS-USA, Dane County, will celebrate the founding of the UN with a luncheon on October 23rd at Noon at Monona Terrace. The keynote speaker will be Carla Bury, Multicultural Affairs Coordinator in the State Department's office. Her address will focus on human trafficking. The UN has long been an advocate for the disadvantaged in honoring human rights; alleviating extreme poverty; ending the scourge of war; ending human slavery; and engendering respect for the international rule of law.

Interested in Sharing Your Thanksgiving Celebration With an International Guest?

Madison Friends of International Students

(MFIS) is looking for families who would like to invite international students to their homes for this year's Thanksgiving celebration. It is a wonderful opportunity to share Thanksgiving traditions, food, and family with people from around the world. The warmth and friendship shared will never be forgotten. Volunteers are screened and matched through MFIS. For questions and/or to volunteer as a host, call MFIS at 263-4010 or email in-fo@mfismadison.org (email subject: Thanksgiving Hospitality) Deadline November 15. For information about MFIS, visit <http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/index.html> MFIS has served international students at University of Wisconsin-Madison for 52 years and is extending a welcome to international students at Madison College as well!

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. Fall practice dates: Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11, November 18.

Harpsichord Dedication Concert

On October 30 at 3 p.m in the sanctuary of Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street in

Madison there will be a free concert to dedicate the newly acquired harpsichord donated to the church by a former church member. Trevor Stephenson of Madison refurbished the harpsichord this summer and will be the guest artist, along with the Christ Church scholarship singers quartet. Background will be given by John Rafoth, organist at Christ Church. A reception will follow. All are welcome! Please spread the word.

An Invitation

The Road Home, an agency that provides housing in many congregations to homeless families, and which follows the families for a period of time after they have found permanent housing, is inviting community members to a free breakfast at the Alliant Energy Center from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 3. There will be background information, a testimonial by a Road Home graduate, the Madison Youth Choir along with some of the children of Road Home guests, and then an opportunity to pledge to the agency. It is not essential to pledge but if people can, that will greatly help the agency.

If you would like to join members of the community at this event, please let Susan Becker (231-1817 or sbecker4@tds.net) know by October 28. Susan will be the table host. This should be an inspiring opportunity and a great time to learn about this worthwhile effort to help those in great need, as well as to meet and share with others

Board Action--Susan Beaker

Last June a majority of the Board of Directors of CWU in Madison voted to sign on to a letter that opposes the opening of a drone training facility for the Wisconsin National Guard. Drones are unmanned surveillance airborne vehicles which provide information to the military in various ways and some of them deliver targeted bombs. You will read the letter below which contains background information that the opposition to the training facility is putting forth.

One of the Building Blocks of the 2008-12 'CWU Quadrennial Priority, "Building A 'World 'Fit For 'All God's Children," is "Peace : Promote the ways that make for peace." This Building Block was the basis for the Board's decision.

CWU has joined some 37 other organizations in Wisconsin in signing on to the letter. To see what other groups are represented, go to wnpj.org/droneletter.

An Open Letter to the Governor, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State Assembly, Members of the State Legislature, Chair of the State Building Commission, the Adjutant General of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs and the Wisconsin Air National Guard at Volk Field:

We the Undersigned strongly object to the proposed \$8 million, 10,298-square-foot building at Volk Field to provide training, maintenance, operations and storage space for the RQ-7 Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). While the Shadow 200's payload is a camera, it is used to put innocent people under surveillance and to identify targets for the armed Predator drones being used in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as Yemen and Gaza.

We object to the targeted killing by the CIA of those who are suspected of being militants or insurgents. Under the Law of Armed Conflict there has to be a way of distinguishing between combatants and non-combatants and the destruction of civilian property must be proportional to the military advantage gained. Furthermore, the use of targeted killing is legally justified only if there is an imminent threat. We believe the continuing and indiscriminate use of drone attacks is not justified under international law.

We object to the killing of innocent victims by these drones. In the six years that drone strikes have been used, researchers at the New America Foundation estimate that between 1,283 and 1,971 people have been killed. Many more are wounded including children. In July 2009, the Brookings Institution released a report stating that in the United States-led drone attacks in Pakistan, ten civilians died for every militant killed. Thus the use of drones is not only ineffective but it results in the creation of more militants. And it may destabilize the government of our current ally, Pakistan.

We also object to the waste of our state and federal tax dollars on weapons that are illegal, immoral and ineffective. We need that money here at home to

feed the one in five Wisconsin children who are hungry; to house the homeless -- one-quarter of whom are veterans; and to create jobs with living wages for the almost eight percent of our citizens who are unemployed and the many more who are underemployed or have stopped even looking for work.

Therefore we ask that you not allow construction of this 8 million dollar military boondoggle here in Wisconsin. The state's share of the cost is \$415,000 at a time when we have a budget shortfall. This is a weapons system that we can't afford and that undermines U.S. diplomatic and security goals around the world. Sincerely, Mike Miles and Barb Kass, Co-Farmers, Anathoth Community Farm, Luck, WI

Donor Sabbath

At the State Assembly for CWU in Wisconsin on September 17 in Milwaukee the keynote speaker, Kara Grennier of the Wisconsin Donor Network/Wisconsin Tissue Bank, told us about the vital need for transplanted organs, and tissue for the 1800 people in Wisconsin alone who are clinging to life, waiting for such a donation.

When someone dies, no matter what the reason, it is a difficult time for the family. But if the person has signed up to be an organ donor and has discussed this with the family, others can be given life. This often gives the family a beacon of light in the midst of tragedy and loss.

You may say: "But I am too old. I am not well. I am afraid of what taking my organs will do to my body. " The oldest organ donor was 90! Only HIV and active cancer preclude organ donation. One's body will not be disfigured when organs are taken.

All major religious traditions contain in their sacred writings passages that help us to see the value of giving of ourselves, whether in life or death. This is the basis for the Donor Sabbath, where people of faith can celebrate life made possible by organ and tissue donation. Clergy are the key to this. Clergy are close to their parishioners in life and death and can comfort and help the bereaved to see hope.

"The National Donor Sabbath (NDS) is celebrated the second week of November, just before Thanksgiving. It encourages public awareness of organ and tissue donation through religious and spiritual

communities of faith. NDS provides an opportunity for all religious faith communities to join together around the Thanksgiving holiday and reflect on the spirit of giving, the need for organ and tissue donors, sharing the universal message of hope and celebrating the "Gift of Life." This is an opportunity for houses of worship to help initiate conversations that can make a life-saving difference to thousands of people across the United States. "A Religious Resource Manual is available that includes sample bulletin and newsletter inserts, sample worship aids (sermons, hymns, prayers, inspirational stories) and much more." (Religious Resource Manual, p. 4) And there is even a beautiful Donor Sabbath pin available! To obtain this Religious Resource Manual, contact Kara Grennier at [HYPERLINK mail-to:karagrennier@bcwwi.org](mailto:karagrennier@bcwwi.org) kara.grennier@bcw.org or call 414-937-6965.

Although the Donor Sabbath is targeted for November, it can be done any time. So bring this up to your pastor and head up the effort to make members of your congregation aware of the gift that they can give when their lives are finished. And perhaps most important: Sign up to be an organ donor at YesIwillwisconsin.com, and discuss this with your family!

To find out more about donation, call the Wisconsin Donor Network at 1-800-432-5405.