

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter October 2019 No. 11

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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November 1, 2019

World Community Day Celebration

The Time is Now—Resolve to Love

**Keynote speaker:
Wisconsin State Representative,
Shelia Stubbs**

**9-11:30 am
Light Breakfast,
Prayer, Song,
and a Short Program**

co-hosted by the women of

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church
and Grace Episcopal Church**

Men are Welcome

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church
2019 Fischer Street, Madison**

November Celebration

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for Church Women United's World Community Day 2019 on Friday, November 1, from 9-11:30 am at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 2019 Fischer Street, Madison. Enjoy a morning of fellowship with other women from Madison-area congregations, including a light breakfast, prayer, song, and a short program. This year's theme is ***The Time is Now—Resolve to Love***. World Community Day focuses on global peace and justice. All are welcome and there is no fee. Make plans to attend, and bring a friend.

Our keynote speaker is Wisconsin State Representative Shelia Stubbs, D—Madison 77th Assembly District. The morning is co-hosted by the women of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Grace Episcopal Church. If you have any questions, contact Lynn McDonald. lynn.mcdonald@gmail.com.

Founded in 1941, Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.

October Forum

We had a morning of rich conversation and sharing at Oakwood University Woods. Lynn McDonald greeted us as transitional leader and announced that Gloria Carter will take over as president of our chapter in January. This will solidify our switch from school year to calendar year.

We got caught up on many activities, such as the state annual assembly of CWU-Wisconsin, which met here on September 7. Thirteen from Madison came, and we were so proud of our location at Holy Wisdom Monastery. The theme of our meeting was *Care of God's Creation*, and Holy Wisdom has restored prairie, planted forests, created ponds and spillways that have mitigated flooding in the neighborhood and kept polluted waters out of Lake Mendota. Plus their buildings get 98% of their energy from solar. Good site choice.

Our speaker, Martha Nack, spoke of her ministry as chaplain at Oakwood, but much more. Her mother, Mary Nack, was a strong member of CWU, which makes this even more special. We have the rare treat of being able to share her presentation with you in the draft she prepared for the occasion.

Good Morning!

Shirley asked me last Spring to come, hoping I could talk a bit about my mother, Mary Nack and her work and advocacy in the church and community. Mary passed away last year. I wasn't sure that I had enough detail about her and her work to share and suggested instead that I talk about my Oakwood ministry.

As I prepared for this talk, I realized that those two topics—My mother's work and my ministry, were intricately connected. And so I begin with my mother. My mother was very active in the church and at the forefront of women being recognized and taken seriously in leadership roles. Unfortunately, a specific record of her involvement in numerous things does not seem to have been recorded through the organizations with which she was affiliated. So what I primarily know is gleaned from her over the years and through what she requested I put in her obituary.

Mary was born and raised in Sheboygan Falls, an only child. She attended Ripon College briefly and transferred to UW-Madison where she completed her degree in Social work in 1950. She also married that year and moved with her husband, Art, to Milwaukee where they both worked as community organizing interns in the Milwaukee Public Health Department, supporting racial integration. This experience gave them their passion for the civil rights movement and social justice. Throughout the five children's growing years, my mom was an active parent participating in scouting, PTA, and teaching Sunday School. In Waukegan, IL, my mom participated on the Panel of American Women, which primarily addressed issues of education and integration.

After moving back to Madison, WI, she served on the staff of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. In both of these positions she worked on social justice issues of varying types. She was at the leading edge of women becoming more active in leadership roles in the church. She worked with the Council of churches Ecumenical Decade of churches Solidarity with Women in the 1990's chairing several events. These events highlighted the church women's commitments to full participation in the church and community; to work toward justice, peace, and the integrity of creation; and to do and share theology and spirituality. She also served on the Board of Directors (including several terms as chair) of the National Conference of Churches Conference Point Center that hosted interfaith religious educational opportunities. She was also active in the League of Women Voters and Church Women United and a founding member of the Community of Hope.

Mary left many legacies. Many of which may not be very publicly known as she was a very private and unassuming individual, never one to toot her own horn. I would say however that her legacy and influence live on in the very structures of the organizations she worked with that learned that women and minorities need to be taken seriously and never again relegated to a back page or after thought. One of her legacy's in my life, was her strong influence on my career path and calling. Thus I segue into my work and particularly my ministry at Oakwood.

I, like both of my parents, have a social work degree and then, an Mdiv. I am a licensed social worker and an ordained Lutheran pastor. I recall as a child

of 8 or 9 telling my mom that I was going to be a minister. She very gently told me that that was not something women could do. She later was thoroughly embarrassed that she had said that as she was one of the women who made advocated for and made it more acceptable for women to be ordained. (Although for many years occasional women were ordained in some protestant denominations.) - Both by her specific advocacy for more women to be ordained and by her changing church attitudes towards accepting the changing role of women in the church and in society and allowed that path to open for me.

I served as a parish pastor for approximately 10 years. I worked at UW Madison in AODA counseling for teens and then at Lutheran Social Services for 10 years in church connections and adoption fields. Then I came here to Oakwood to serve as chaplain to this community called Oakwood.

You can see the contrails of my mother's work and influence throughout my life and calling. Here at Oakwood, my role is as chaplain to all our residents in whatever their walk, faith walk or other. This sense of ecumenical and interfaith ministry are also influenced by my mother's impact of her life. Though I consider myself to be a Christian trained in the Lutheran tradition, I feel my calling is to walk with others in whatever their needs as I believe Jesus directed us. This was similar to the call my mom felt as she worked in the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the United Church of Christ—she jumped in wherever the need was and supported social justice causes.

So here at Oakwood you will see this playing out in all I do. If I needed to choose one word to describe my ministry, that word would be compassion. A virtue my mother embodied.

As a pastor I do:

(a lot of listening, clarifying a person's image of god, helping people to clarify their experiences, clarify their value system-ethical reflection and discussions, teaching, worship leadership, support through anxiety, loss and change, celebration of life, prayer, grief work—including bedside memorial services, funerals, memorial services and community memorials.

I am called in on every death here at Oakwood to walk with the person in the dying process or walk with the family—no matter the tradition. Bedside Memorials—Christian, Jewish, non-sectarian. Organizing and/or attending services for all faiths—lead our non-denomination ecumenical services or arrange for leaders from various religious groups to have gatherings, attend most of our Shabbat services, arrange for the Jewish High Holy Days to be celebrated.

Various other projects—Forgiveness series (Bob Enright), Reformation series (including Katie Von Bora Luther herb garden). Spiritual part of the wellness wheel—Meditation, other practices.

Work with Spiritual Life Committee in IL and with staff in Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing and Rehab, Asked to open Board meetings with prayer, counsel and console staff as well as residents. Lead worship, devotions, annotated hymn sings, great courses re: to theology and religion and more.)

This is a thumbnail sketch of my work at Oakwood. I also want touch a bit on the continuing change of women's roles in the church. Beverly Davison and I have had several conversations on this. My mother and her generation, including many of you, pushed the envelope for the church to take women and their voices seriously---resulting in change in Women's groups in the church and their involvement as well as making easier and more access to ordination.

My generation, in part, seems to have made it much more acceptable for women in all kinds of ordained roles. We by our nature and out of necessity had to excel to show we were worthy. We had to prove that woman could have a career and children too!

New generations will have their own leadership roles and challenges. It seems that every generation does not always have a good sense of history/herstory and forgets that we all stand on the shoulders of those before us. I thank you for giving me a chance to reflect on my mom whose shoulders I solidly stand on.

Full text of blessing: Go forth into the world to service God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. (ELW order of worship).

[Note: October 6-12 is Mental Health Awareness Week.]

Ecumenical Choir

Rehearsals will begin in November.

Those attending shared upcoming events at their churches. Here is the information from two posters they provided for attendees.

The Art of the Needle
Madison Embroiderers' Guild
2019 Show

Show Dates and Times
Saturday, October 19
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, October 20
Noon - 4:00 pm
Free Admission
Handicapped Accessible

Location:
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
110 North Gammon Road, Madison

Show Details:
www.MadisonAreaEGA.org

NEVER ALONE
Prayer that Blesses
Individuals and Communities

MELANIE WAHLBERG

God's powerful loving ideas care for us every moment.
Melanie Wahlberg is a member of Christian Science Board of Lectureship

VENUE DATE INFO

First Church of Christ, Sunday For information:
Scientist October 27 christianscience
610 South Segoe Road 2:00 pm madison.com
Madison, WI

Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist—Madison

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS & DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FORM
FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON

Please Note: These contributions will be used for the general operating expenses of CWU of Madison, as well as for the Celebration materials, choir music, annual donations to selected community social services, and annual contribution to Church Women United of Wisconsin. GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES include, in part, the office rent, and the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter, and miscellaneous supplies needed throughout the year.

Please send in contributions by November 30 of each year. Our financial year ends on December 31 of each year.

FROM: _____
Name of church/organization or individual donor.

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____
For church or organization.

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please make your check(s) payable to: Church Women of Madison and send to:

Marleen S. Lippert, Treasurer, CWU of Madison
6329 Scandia Lane
McFarland, WI 53558

Thank you for your financial assistance in carrying out the various projects of CWU. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON WI INC
725 GILMORE STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53711
MEC 608-663-8450**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED