



THE SUNDIAL



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December 2011 & January 2012

2011 VALIANT WOMAN AWARD



Eleanor Pope has been selected as recipient of our 2011 Valiant Woman Award because of her enormous contributions toward peace and understanding among countries and cultures.

In her own words, Eleanor once said, "It all started for me in 1957 when our church needed someone to act as its representative to the United Church Women. At the time I accepted the position, I was a rather young woman with two small children. To my surprise, instead of finding monthly meetings full of dry, boring reports by a bunch of old women (as I had heard), I found the meetings and the work which these concerned women were doing both challenging and exciting. They were involved with life – as it affects us personally, community wide and throughout the world. Soon I became involved, too, and especially with the international students in the Rochester area!"

Eleanor has been an active volunteer for the Rochester International Friendship Council (RIFC) since the early 1960's and during this time has provided leadership, developed programs, coordinated activities, promoted the organization within the community and acted as liaison with other community groups. RIFC was founded in 1948 in response to community members' concerns that international students attending Rochester Institute of Technology and University of Rochester had encountered many prejudices in our community and were left with a negative impression of American life. RIFC set out to provide hospitality and assist these students in becoming acquainted with the Rochester community and American culture. Eleanor soon became involved and welcomed her students for dinner and planned trips for them to various points of interest around Rochester.

In 1965, Eleanor became Co-Coordinator of Student Services and during her over 15 years of service in this role, she made countless arrangements for home dinners, speaking opportunities, picnics and other social gatherings, even assistance with weddings. Soon after, the group realized that another need had arisen as many of the students had wives and children and, in 1967, Eleanor was instrumental in founding the International Wives Group. Meetings include cooking demonstrations, crafts, or visits to a library, museum or farm to pick apples and an opportunity to know more about not only American life, but each other.

Eleanor and her family have been a Friendship Family since joining RIFC and have hosted, encouraged, comforted and supported over 70 students. Today she keeps in touch with many of her former students and still hosts monthly dinners for graduate students from the University of Rochester.

Fifty four years later, we continue to be blessed by her commitment and dedication to community service.

Eleanor is truly a deserving recipient of the 2011 Church Women United Valiant Woman Award.

From the President

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

There is a stillness permeating my small corner of the world this morning... a slight breeze of chill moves the few autumn leaves that continue to cling to the mostly bare branches... but for the most part, it is quiet. Thanksgiving is here and Advent waits in its wings... the days of preparation will begin as the natural light continues to shorten into early darkness as we journey toward winter solstice.

Soon we begin lighting the Advent candles... the lights of peace, hope, love, and joy will flame in our hearts and in the world. On Christmas Eve, we will light the center Advent candle for the one who makes these gifts possible... the light that honors the child born long ago and continues to shine in the darkness. It is that light that makes the journey to Bethlehem worth the wait. As we light the candles and journey this Advent season with Joseph and Mary... as we wait with the angels... as we look for the star in the night sky and prepare our gifts... our heart gifts... for the child, let us celebrate the one who shines in peace, hope, love, and joy in the darkness. Blessings this Advent season.

- Peace, Rev. Sue Forsyth

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

All the talented knitters
who have created cozy and wonderful afghans to share
as the cold weather arrives
through our Warm Up Rochester Project.

Thank you to
the women of Greece Baptist Church
for their gift of 7 beautiful afghans
and

Thank you to
Johanna
for her gift of 6 baby blankets

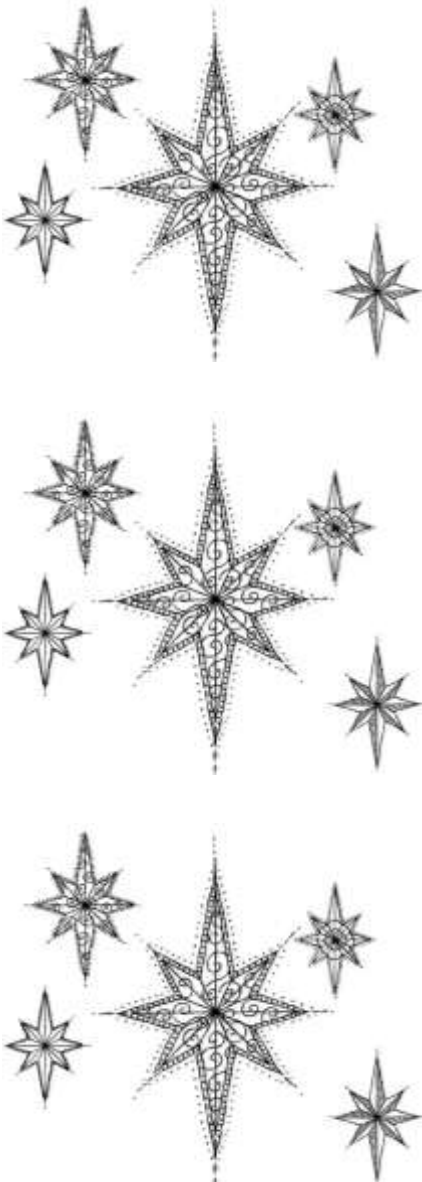
Many will appreciate
your gift of warmth and love.

MORE THANK YOU'S TO:

The women of Greece Baptist Church
who donated
9 Women's Health Kits
and

Tot-to-Teens, Too! for donating
12 Women's Health Kits

We thank you for your caring gesture
of kindness to a stranger in need.



Highlights from World Community Day

“**Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action**” was this year’s theme for the World Community Day Celebration. Women across the nation observed this nationally recommended program, challenging us to reflect on what we are doing to promote peace and justice issues and what else we can do. The Celebration was held Friday, November 4, 2011 at Greece Baptist Church with over 40 in attendance from a wide variety of churches.

Rev. Steve Gretz, Pastor of Greece Baptist Church, and his wife, Leslie Lee, led us in song and music as we were reminded of the need for action in order to follow what Jesus expects us to do as His disciples. In the church’s beautifully decorated room, one could feel the aliveness of the celebration.

We also enjoyed continuing our fellowship as we shared lunch together.

Thanks to all who so generously supported the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester with gifts of food.

- Flo Braker, World Community Day Chair

Church World Service News

With the celebration of Thanksgiving, I have been mindful to appreciate the wonderful gifts in my life. I am thankful for so many things, including working for an organization that serves those in need and the wonderful volunteers that make it all possible. THANK YOU.

Prayer from Mother Teresa

Make us worthy, Lord,
To serve others throughout the world,
Who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them, through our hands,
This daily bread,
And by our understanding and love,
Give them peace and joy. Amen

Best Gifts

Are there people on your gift list that don’t “need” anything? Consider buying a gift in their honor and give a gift of hope. A Best Gift helps bring genuine and lasting change to those who need it most. Whatever gift you buy, your money will fund one of the program areas related to your gift: agriculture and livestock, emergency and disaster preparedness, care for vulnerable children, water and environment, or women’s empowerment. For example, if you buy a goat, rabbits, or a beehive, your money will go to agriculture or livestock programs that can boost people’s income. All the gifts are examples of how Church World Service works in partnership to assist people in the world’s poorest countries to find effective ways of tackling poverty and injustice.

For each item you order you will get a gift card that illustrates the particular fund you are supporting, along with a brief description of the item(s) you selected - or you can through our website print and/or send an electronic version of the card.

To order, go to www.cwsbestgifts.org. To place an order by phone, call 1-800-297-1516, ext. 222.

Blankets+

As you snuggle up by the fire and celebrate the holidays with your loved ones, consider making a donation to the Blankets+ program and give the gift of warmth and love. Visit our website to make an individual donation to the Blankets+ program or to order materials to hold a Blankets+ program.

To place an order by phone, call 1-800-297-1516. For more information or to order materials online, go to www.churchworldservice.org/blankets.

Thank you for sharing your time and gifts with Church World Service as we share with those in need throughout the world.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

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CWU Short Subjects**Upcoming Meetings****Task Force on Courts**

Thursday, December 8, 2011 at Noon

Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs Street, 14607

There will be no meeting in January 2012.

CWU Board of Directors

There will be no Board meetings in December and January.

The next meeting will be February 17, 2012 at 9:30 am at

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



The CWUR Office will be closed on **Thursday December 22, 2011**
and will re-open on **Monday, January 2, 2012.**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The CWUR Office will also be closed on
Monday, January 16, 2012
in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Announcements**

All submissions for the February Sundial
must be received by **Thursday, January 19.**
Please send to: cwursundial@frontier.com

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE REMAINING 2011-2012 PROGRAM YEAR CELEBRATIONS:

World Day of Prayer Celebration	Friday March 2, 2012
April Bible Study	Friday April 13, 2012
May Friendship Day Celebration – Dinner Meeting	Friday May 4, 2012
June Action Celebration and Picnic	Friday June 1, 2012



This month, our special needs include:

- 1 pound bags of rice
- Macaroni and cheese
- Soup (both low sodium and regular)
- Peanut butter

WOMEN'S HEALTH KITS PROJECT

Our project collects toiletries and other small items to assemble Health Kits for incarcerated women at the Monroe County Jail. The simple items in these kits provide a tremendous boost to their self-esteem as well as a tangible sign that someone still remembers them.



Each Health Kit Consists of:

- ❖ Shampoo
- ❖ Toothpaste
- ❖ Deodorant
- ❖ Bar soap
- ❖ Socks
- ❖ Washcloth
- ❖ Small pack tissues
- ❖ Combs (without handle please)

To Assemble a Health Kit:

Please pack in a 1-gallon plastic bag. Please remove soap, toothpaste, etc. from any cardboard boxes or hard plastic wrapping. Items can be any size, although full size is preferred. Please note that toothbrushes are no longer needed; they are supplied at the jail.

Please bring donations to our monthly Celebrations or to the CWU Office.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important ministry!