

THE SUNDIAL

Volume XVII No. 2

April/May/June 2006

EIA Initiative-Part II-Insight Moving Church Women United Forward

Friday, May 5, 2006 9:30-12:30
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1000 Winton Road N.

Brown bag lunch &
conversations at tables
will follow the program

Church Women United's May celebration is the second in a series of three meetings. Our goal is to give insight into ways Rochester is working to strengthen families under stress. Many children, youth, parents and grandparents are in difficult circumstances and need a support system available at critical times. We have chosen three programs to tell us about their role in giving this support: Peter Castle Family Resource Center; Skip Generation, and the Center For Youth.

Peter Castle Family Resource Center has children whose families have low incomes and great needs. Daycare is provided for the children. Sicily Mitchell will give us insight into those needs and how the Peter Castle agency assists these families to get help.

Skip Generation at the Family Resource Center is a program for grandparents who become primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Linda James will give us insight into their special challenges.

Center For Youth is an emergency program for young people 12-18 years old who are in trouble. Stephanie Fitzgerald, Coordinator of the Volunteer and Professional Development, will tell us about this vital safety net. Two related programs "Women Helping Girls" and "Transitional Living Program" are also under the Center for Youth umbrella.

From the CWU President

"**Signs of the Times**" was a beautiful affirmation of Church Women United around the world for World Day of Prayer 2006. The theme, written by women of South Africa, addressed the growing pandemic of **HIV/AIDS** as well as their country's needs.

Our speaker, Evangelist Na Na Afua Essilfie, a native of Ghana, focused on the need for compassion, while emphasis is placed on the struggles to eliminate **HIV/AIDS** and poverty. As these crises continue to escalate, persistent prayerful actions are needed to help prevent more people from dying.

Our World Day of Prayer service was held at the Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church. We thank the pastor, Rev. Kenneth Q. James, and the church members for their gracious hospitality in allowing CWU to worship in their sanctuary. We are also grateful to Mrs. Alberta Hunt, chairperson of World Day of Prayer, Mrs. Linda S. Moore and the Church Women United Choir for the beautiful songs rendered and all other participants of the World Day of Prayer service.

This month, our Executive Director, Ms. Colleen Vogt, will lead us in a Bible study at our Board of Directors meeting on Friday, April 21. Please bring your favorite Bible, pen and note pad. Come prepared to be spiritually enlightened and uplifted.

From the CWU President [continued]

As we continue to forge ahead seeking to strengthen our Rochester CWU unit, let us intentionally be committed to partner in prayer daily **for** social justice and peace, **for** an all inclusive caring community of women, **to** increase the involvement of younger women, and **to** increase the number of denominations represented, and **for** each one of the upcoming **E I A** programs. –Audrey Davidson

From the Executive Director

I am continuing to settle into this position. It is wonderful to meet more and more of you at each celebration. It helps me very much to connect the name with a real live person, whether I have spoken to you on the phone or at one of the meetings or celebrations.

I can sense the gathering excitement about the new EIA Initiative. I am inspired by your great desire to learn about and address the needs of today as you have done in each generation through Church Women United. I look forward to collaborating with the action projects that come out of our prayer and study together.

I hope we can use this new excitement as a catalyst for us, in creating new projects and in partnering with other organizations, churches and women who are not currently involved with Church Women United. Betty Allinger and I are working with the denominational chairs from the Board of Directors to help get word out to their denominations about Church Women United activities. There are also some women who serve as contacts for their own churches and their assistance is greatly appreciated as well. These denominational and church representatives get the info about our activities into newsletters, bulletins, and church and women's club announcements. These efforts are essential. These women also use their personal contacts to spread the word about events. I challenge each of us to help in this effort. I challenge each of us to think of groups or individuals that may be interested in working with us, and try to invite one new person to an upcoming meeting.

As part of my work to help support the programming of Church Women United and to publicize our efforts for ecumenical fellowship and social action, plans are underway to create a website, develop a new brochure, and create a database of women and groups involved with Church Women United here in the Rochester area. Do please let me know if you would like to be involved in helping with any of these projects or have updates for the mailing list. –Colleen Vogt

Women's Interfaith Coalition

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Welcoming 10 am; program 10:30-11:30

At the Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Avenue

Speaker: Jewell Gayle Jones

Topic: Aging with Grace

Wed, May 17 – Welcoming 10 am; program 10:30-11:30 - Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Ave
Program: This will be an open discussion to hear feedback from the members of WIC to discuss past and future programs.
Questions? 585-334-3991

ANNE NELSON



“Anyone who knew Anne, knew how much CWU meant to her and how much Anne meant to CWU”. Notes accompanying memorial gifts to CWU described Anne as remarkable, grand, a hard worker for the Lord, and one-in-a-million.

Anne Nelson died on February 8, 2006, after a long illness; she is survived by her husband, Ray, three adult children and two grandchildren. Anne’s early involvement with Church Women United focused on the Task Force on Courts. In the following years, she served as CWU Unit President, chaired Urban Causeway and Reading Partners, represented CWU on the Board of the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester, and worked on the Housing Advocacy Coalition and the Balancing Justice program.

Anne’s concern for her community was also shown in her volunteer activities at her church, the League of Women Voters and the Rochester Family Resource Network.

Anne was an avid bicyclist; she and Ray often biked in the Finger Lakes area and on vacations in New England. She also enjoyed skiing and traveling.

Much of what CWU in Rochester & Vicinity has been and is now, is the result of the efforts of Anne Nelson—truly a Valiant Woman!

ELINORE DEVUYST



A long-time member of Church Women United, Elinore DeVuyst died on March 21, 2006. For many years, Elinore was World Day of Prayer chairperson. Church Women United has lost a faithful hard-working friend.

Meet Your County Legislator

We [CWU] will be co-sponsoring with the Greater Rochester Council of Churches (GRCC) a “Meet Your County Legislator” program. In fall of 2003, GRCC organized a forum in 22 of the 29 districts and this Spring will have another one. The sessions will combine districts and still will allow for time for people to meet in small group with their individual legislator. We hope:

1. To provide an opportunity for communication between county legislators and the people who elected them;
2. To stimulate interest in and concern for the issues facing the community;
3. To learn the legislators’ goals for the upcoming year;
4. To dialogue about policy and budgetary issues.

The date is tentatively set for June. Please be on the lookout for publicity about this event. Please come and encourage others to attend, so that we as citizens and as members of Church Women United can build relationships with our representatives.

SPRING ASSEMBLY-Women of ELCA Meeting
Saturday, May 20, 2006 - Concordia Lutheran Church in Kendall, NY
Speakers: Beth & Rick Walker
Discussing Nicaraguan coffee plantations and Fair Trade Coffee
—Joan D. Rohlin-Lutheran Church Women 2006

CWU Short Subjects

Thank You

Jean Bartlett & Sally Dodgson
for assembling the February/March SUNDIAL

and

Betty Allinger, June Becker Ellen Kimbrough & Odessa
Lybrand for assembling the 2006 Financial Appeal
mailing.

Dorothea Hunter wrote a lovely note with her memorial for Anne Nelson. She greets us from Pittsburgh where she and her husband are enjoying the many activities available in that area.

From Marie Barker: Many thanks to my CWU friends for their notes and prayers for the recovery of my daughter, Katherine. She is definitely improving and I hope to return to Rochester full time by mid-March at the latest. (Ed. Note: Marie is now at home.)

Afghans Appreciated

We received the following letter.....“Thank you for your generous donation of 24 beautiful blankets for our children at Mercy Residential Services, Melita House. We are grateful for your help.

“For many months we have had a full house with as many as ten mothers and as many children. Just this week we found that three of the young mothers are expecting their children on the same day in April. As far as we know it will be a FIRST since we began this ministry over twenty years ago. We look forward to this special day.

“Again our thanks for your gift. Sincerely Susan Aiello, Executive Director”

“Gift of the Heart” Kit Collection

The year 2005 was a year of catastrophic disasters. January saw over 100,000 health kits being shipped to Indonesia and Sri Lanka following the tsunami. In October, a devastating earthquake hit Pakistan and relief workers provided health kits to emergency clinics set up in tent villages established by CWS and other inter-faith agencies. In addition to the health kits, CWS has provided 24,500 winterized tents, each containing four blankets, to the earthquake victims.

In February 2006, CWS released a shipping report of all the blankets and “Gift of The Heart” Kits sent to the Gulf States area in the six months since Hurricane Katrina. 136,000 kits and 57,000 CWS blankets have been distributed. Over 100,000 health kits went into shelters and schools, while 16,000 school kits helped young students face the first day of school in another state after being evacuated from the city of New Orleans. Over 5,000 cleanup buckets are helping families with the massive task of cleaning out their homes.

In the coming weeks, churches in Rochester and surrounding communities have the opportunity to help replenish these much needed CWS kits. Staff will be ready to accept your kits at the central collection depot:

April 1 - May 5 – 9:00 - 12:00 PM - Downtown United Presbyterian Church - 121
N Fitzhugh St, Rochester, NY 14614 - Contact: Sharon Whitney (585)-325-4000

For more information about the kit program or to order a copy of the new “Heart to Heart” video, call the CWS Regional Office in Syracuse at 1-888-297-2767.

CWS Introduces New Resources for the Tools & Blanket Congregational Program

The very successful TOOLS & BLANKETS program sponsored by the Fairport-Perinton Lay Clergy Council is featured in the brand new program resources recently published by Church World Service. The story of our local churches' community-wide effort helps inspire other congregations to get involved.

The new materials, including a "how-to-do-it" congregational packet, a new DVD or video called "Turning the Tide", and a CD of resources, skits, litanies, and bulletin inserts are all available by calling the CWS Regional office in Syracuse 1-888-297-2767.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) has volunteer opportunities available for mature, responsible adults who are interested in making a difference in the life of a child. CASA volunteers advocate for children who have been abused and/or neglected. CASA will hold a 3-day training course at the Hall of Justice in downtown Rochester on May 1, May 3 and May 5 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm each day. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

To learn more about CASA and complete an application packet, please call (585) 428-5297 or visit our website at www.casarochester.org.

Communities in Conversation

Celebrating the Life Cycle : Jewish and Christian Practice

Texts provided at each session. Free and open to the community

All Sessions: 12 noon to 1:00 pm Jewish Community Federation - 441 East Avenue
(585)461-0490

Date	SubjectPresenters.....
April 26	<i>Passover & Easter</i>	Larry Kotok, Rabbi Temple B'rith Kodesh Joe Kelly, Professor Religious Studies, Nazareth College

May 2006 - Celebration of 10 years of Interfaith Bible Study.....Communities in Conversation
Program and Date to be announced.

Save the Date:

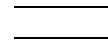
June 2, 2006 at 9:30 am.



EIA Initiative–Part III

Hands-on Action/Picnic at

Bethany Presbyterian Church, 3000 Dewey Avenue



Safe Journey

is having a rummage sale and is looking for gently used household items, furniture, luggage, craft items, tools, instruments, cookbooks, children’s books, toys, sports equipment, and baby clothes (no adult clothes). They can arrange to pick up items if necessary (223-5040).

Volunteers of America has put out a call for clothing as many of their items have been sent to aid disaster relief. You can drop off at any location listed in the phone book. There is also a drop off box for St. Pauly Textile at the Irondequoit UCC [they take clothing and household linens (no rags)]. Colleen will gladly receive items at upcoming meetings and celebrations to bring to this box.